

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF SAINT EPHRAIM'S SYRIAC ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CENTRAL FALLS, RHODE ISLAND

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial celebration of Saint Ephraim's Syriac Orthodox Church in Central Falls, Rhode Island.

In the late 19th century, a small, close-knit group of Syriac families living in Turkey and Iraq arrived in America after fleeing the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

After coming to Rhode Island, this small faith community chartered Saint Ephraim's Syriac Orthodox Church—a parish center and chapel for worship that have remained strong symbols of the strength of Rhode Island's Syriac Orthodox residents.

The church claims a wealth of theological, liturgical, and musical traditions. Indeed, to this day, every Sunday the parishioners in Central Falls, Rhode Island conduct liturgy in the original Aramaic that was spoken during the time of Jesus Christ.

The parish of St. Ephraim's has contributed mightily to our community in northern Rhode Island. Whether newly arrived immigrants fleeing persecution or just yearning to live the American dream, or multi-generational and fully assimilated Americans, parishioners of St. Ephraim's church are patriotic Americans.

Like anyone else, they work hard, value education and appreciate and enjoy the freedoms they are offered.

In return, they have been industrious citizens and have served our country in numerous positions of distinction, including university educators, engineers, leaders in law, medicine, and commerce.

Many have also served in the Armed Forces, dating back to the early 20th Century, and some have made the ultimate sacrifice for the defense of our country.

Today, as we celebrate the centennial anniversary of Saint Ephraim's, we are also mindful of the ongoing persecution facing Christian Syriac families in the Middle East and especially in Syria where two Orthodox bishops were abducted earlier this year.

And as we hope for the safe return of these and other victims of recent violence, all of us stand united in praying for peace in Syria and throughout the Middle East.

I thank Father Mattias Alan Shaltan for his continued leadership of this parish and salute all the members of Saint Ephraim's on their centennial celebration this year.

RECOGNIZING THE ROLLING FAMILY AS THE 2013 HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA, FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Rolling family for being selected as the 2013 Holmes County, Florida, Farm Family of the Year.

Jeremy Rolling first discovered his love for farming at the young age of four, while riding in the cab of his grandfather's tractor in the Noma community of Holmes County. This love, coupled with his grandfather's influence and his grandfather instilling in Jeremy a strong work ethic, factored into Jeremy's interest in the field of Agriculture, his active involvement in the Future Farmers of America, and the foundation on which his successful farming operation is conducted today.

Following high school, Jeremy met his wife Teresa, and together they settled in the Prosperity community of Holmes County. They began truck farming and small plot farming, until 2008, when Jeremy started to row crop farming. Today, they operate a 400-acre farm that includes peanuts, cotton, oats, watermelons, and hay. Teresa and their daughter Jordan, who is in sixth grade and has embraced her green thumb at an early age, both remain actively involved in supporting Jeremy in operating the farm. Teresa assists by pulling peanut wagons, as well as operating the module builder for cotton, and Jordan grew and marketed her first crop of watermelons in 2012. There is no question that the success of the Rolling Family Farm and its expansion across county lines in five years is largely attributed to the family's hard work and joint effort.

The Rolling family is also active in the community outside of their farm. They belong to the Ponce de Leon Future Farmers of America Alumni Association, and Jeremy is a member of the Florida Peanut Producer's Association. Additionally, both Jeremy and Teresa work full-time jobs. Jeremy is an Investigator for the State of Florida, and Teresa transitions from nurturing crops to the bright third-graders of Ponce de Leon Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, our great Nation was built by the tireless work of farmers and their families. The Holmes County Farm Family of the Year Award is a true reflection of the Rolling family's dedication to farming and their strong family values. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Rolling family for this great accomplishment. My wife, Vicki, and I wish them the best for continued success.

SECOND CHANCE ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of reauthorizing the Second Chance Act.

I'd like to thank my dear friend and colleague Rep. Danny Davis for being such a vocal and tireless advocate on what is a critical issue for communities in my district and throughout the country.

I'd also like to thank my colleague Jim Sensenbrenner for his work on this issue and for introducing, along with Congressman Davis, H.R. 3465 which would reauthorize this important law.

The Second Chance Act, signed into law in 2008, has provided important resources and support to individuals re-entering their communities after being incarcerated.

It has support from a broad coalition of organizations including from the civil rights, law enforcement, and behavioral health communities, in addition to many others.

Since becoming law, the Second Chance Act has authorized nearly 600 grants that have been awarded to local governments and nonprofit organizations in 49 states.

These grants have played a critical role in addressing recidivism and increasing public safety.

In my own district in the city of Oakland, a program known as the Comprehensive Community Cross System Reentry Support or C³RS, brings together government and nonprofit partners to re-engage youth in school after leaving a juvenile detention center.

This has been a tremendously successful program. Of the 592 program participants, 442 were reenrolled in school and of the 161 who received job training, 102 were placed in jobs.

This is but one example of the hundreds of successful programs that have helped previously incarcerated individuals get back on their feet and on the right path.

That is why it is so important that we move swiftly to reauthorize the Second Chance Act.

I call on House Republican leadership to bring this measure to the floor for a vote and give our communities and previously incarcerated individuals the support they need.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE MILITARY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, religious freedom is a fundamental human right—a right which is guaranteed by the First Amendment. Many of America's earliest settlers came to her shores seeking religious freedom. As individuals around the world face persecution because of their religious beliefs, America has

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

stood as the beacon for the importance of protecting the ability to freely exercise religious beliefs without fear of intimidation, reprisal, or harm.

It is impossible to defend religious freedom for the civilian and yet deny it to the soldier. The full expression and practice of faith in the military has strong roots. General Washington oversaw the formation of a military chaplaincy in 1775 to support and sustain his men in their religious beliefs. President Franklin D. Roosevelt composed the forward to a military edition of the New Testament, in which he wrote, "Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul."

Faith permeates every aspect of a person's life; it cannot be confined to a belief that is maintained only within one's head, home, or place of worship. It is essential that our military policies and leadership respect the fact that a person's faith also informs the way in which they serve. Anything less is a disservice to their brave and noble sacrifice. It is for this reason that Congress enacted conscience protections in last year's National Defense Authorization Act. However, these protections have fallen on deaf ears. President Obama called these protections ill-advised and unnecessary. Over eleven months have passed since these protections were signed into law, and the Department of Defense has yet to implement policies to enforce the conscience protections.

Furthermore, I fear there is a growing lack of understanding for the importance of preserving the integrity of the chaplaincy. A chaplain's purpose is first and foremost to facilitate the free exercise rights of servicemembers and their families. They serve as an essential pillar of support, especially for those who are not able to freely access religious services and support in the way they could as civilians. Chaplains are more than counselors, honorably and indiscriminately serving all servicemembers.

The members of our Armed Forces do not leave their faith at home when they commit to serve our country, and I remain committed to ensuring they are never required to do so.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. SCOTT
HUNT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an inspiring national health care association leader, Mr. Scott Hunt. During the last 25 years, Mr. Scott has served as the Executive Director and CEO of the world's oldest, largest, and most active organization devoted to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology, The Endocrine Society.

During his tenure, Mr. Hunt engineered the organization to become one of Washington Business Journal's top 50 associations. The American Medical Association has recognized and honored Mr. Hunt with the Medical Executive Meritorious Achievement Award. The award is given to a medical association execu-

tive who has demonstrated exceptional service and has contributed to the goals and ideals of the medical profession.

During the last three decades Mr. Hunt has helped to grow The Society from 6,000 members to more than 16,500 members. The organization represents the majority of endocrinologists, both clinicians and researchers, throughout my home State of Texas, and in more than 100 countries around the world.

As you know, endocrinologists play a very important role in the health of our nation. Endocrinologists are on the front lines of research, diagnosis, and treatment in areas such as rare cancers, diabetes, obesity, thyroid, osteoporosis, women's health, and other endocrine related disorders.

As a physician and a U.S. Congressman, I have worked closely with The Endocrine Society on public policies to strengthen our nation's health. I once again applaud Scott Hunt for growing and advancing both the association and the field of endocrinology. I wish him well in retirement and thank him for his contributions to the medical profession.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV.
THEODORE JUDSON "T.J."
JEMISON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Rev. Theodore Judson "T.J." Jemison, a long-time community leader and civil rights icon. Rev. Jemison dedicated his life to making the world a better place and, although we are saddened by his passing, the legacy that he leaves behind stands as a testament to his incredible life.

Born in Selma, Alabama, Rev. Jemison became pastor of Mount Zion First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1949. He would remain there for the next 54 years. From early in his time as pastor, he was on the forefront of the civil rights movement. In 1953, Rev. Jemison helped organize and lead a boycott of the segregated buses in Baton Rouge. That action served as a blueprint for Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he led the boycott of buses in Montgomery two years later.

While the Montgomery bus boycott was an important chapter in American history, Rev. Jemison's role in the civil rights movement in Baton Rouge didn't end there. He also played an important part in a wide range of other victories for equal rights, including getting black Baton Rouge residents hired at department stores, black deputies hired at the Sheriff's Office, and even helping bring down the barrier to black college football players playing on formerly all-white teams. He would continue his tireless advocacy for equality for the rest of his life.

Rev. Jemison's dedication to righting wrongs in society was matched by his devotion to healing and helping his community. Those twin passions drove him to make life better for people everywhere. The work that Rev. Jemison did made the world a better place. Without the opportunities created through the effort of men and women like him,

I would not be here today. So, if I can see any further, it is only because I stand on the shoulders of giants like Rev. T.J. Jemison.

I want to join his family, congregation, and the state of Louisiana in honoring the life and legacy of a special man.

RECOGNIZING DALE O. KNEE FOR
DEDICATED SERVICE TO NORTH-
WEST FLORIDA AND THIS GREAT
NATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dale O. Knee, PhD, upon his retirement as CEO of Covenant Hospice for his dedicated service not only to the Northwest Florida community, but also to this great Nation. For over forty-five years, Dale served his country and local community in various capacities that share at least one common thread—his passion for helping his fellow man. A retired Navy Commander, business and community leader, and loving husband and father to three, Dale has much to be proud of, and I am privileged to honor his lifetime of achievements.

Dale Knee began his career in service to this great Nation when he answered the call during the Vietnam War and served with honor and distinction. His service in the United States Navy spanned twenty years, and included service as a helicopter search and rescue corpsman during the Vietnam War, a Naval Intelligence Officer/NIS Special Agent, and a Medical Service Corps Officer. Before retiring as a Navy Commander, Dale served as Director of Health Affairs for the Secretary of the Navy, Medical Counter-Intelligence Advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Intelligence Agency, and Administrator of the White House Medical Services under the Reagan Administration.

A leader in the health care community and former hospital executive and owner of a health care consulting and development company, Consulta Network LLC, Dale has served as President and CEO of Covenant Hospice since 1993. Under his leadership, Covenant has grown to be one of the premier hospice facilities in the country, and I know firsthand how Dale's leadership at Covenant has touched the lives of countless patients and helped their families during the most difficult times. In addition to his leadership at Covenant, Dale is the chief executive for Alzheimer's Family Services, Inc., CEO of the Covenant Foundation, and co-founder of the Studer Covenant Alliance, LLC. Dale also serves as the National Director for the Board of Directors of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), is a member of the Board for Florida Hospices and Palliative Care Association, the Alabama Hospice Organization, the National Hospice Work Group, and the national post-acute care think tank, Innovations Group. He also serves on the Board for Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida and is an Optimist and Rotarian.

Dale completed his graduate studies at The George Washington University and has earned a doctoral degree in Health Care Administration. Dale has taught at the university

level for twenty-five years, including twenty years as an Associate Professor of Healthcare Administration at the University of West Florida and as a visiting lecturer at The George Washington University and the University of Texas College Of Health Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Dale Knee for his decades of service to our Nation and the Northwest Florida community. There are some in the world the Lord blesses with an ability to serve and a gift of leadership, and there is no question that Dale Knee is one of those people. My wife Vicki and I wish Dale; his wife Teri; and their three sons, Jeff, Matt, and Ryan, all the best.

THE DEMOCRATIC MOTION TO
RECOMMIT FOR H.R. 2728

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere disappointment that I was not available to vote in favor of the Democratic motion to recommit on H.R. 2728, the Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act. While I do not support the underlying legislation, I would have voted in favor of this motion to recommit in order to allow the Department of the Interior to require the public disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing on public lands. The federal government has a responsibility to ensure that communities across the country have access to a baseline of information about the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing fluids and any potential impacts on human health and the environment.

Strong state and federal regulation, full transparency, and rigorous science are essential to ensuring that oil and gas drilling occurs safely and responsibly in the United States. The inclusion of the motion to recommit would have helped bring transparency to oil and gas drilling activities on public lands, and I deeply regret that it was not included in the bill.

THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
RESTORATION ACT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, twenty years ago this month, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was signed into law on a wave of overwhelming bipartisan support. We gather today to celebrate passage of the law, which reaffirmed one of the core principles on which our nation was founded by prohibiting government from burdening the free exercise of religion without a compelling state interest. To this day, the law has remained a testament to religious liberty and has played a critical role in protecting our fundamental First Amendment rights.

But the same bipartisan spirit that championed the rights of the individual and carried the Religious Freedom Restoration Act into law two decades ago is under assault today.

The premise behind the Religious Freedom Restoration Act could not be more clear: Congress shall not pass laws that get in the way of Americans from exercising their religious beliefs and conscience rights.

Yet under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, commonly known as Obamacare, Americans are being forced to act in direct opposition to their religious and moral beliefs in order to comply with the law. Under the Department of Health and Human Services interpretation of Obamacare, nearly all employers will be required to cover, through their health insurance plans, abortion drugs, sterilization and contraception, even if such a provision goes against these moral and religious beliefs.

This is wrong; it is un-American. The mandate from the administration and subsequent inadequate efforts to rectify it clearly fly in the face of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act that we honor today.

As the HHS mandate continues to be fought in the courts, I have been deeply disappointed by the administration's refusal to provide a reasonable exception to the rule. I have urged, and will continue to urge, an exception that protects the conscience rights of all Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in that fight. I am one of the original cosponsors of H.R. 940, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, legislation that aims to ensure that no employer would be punished for refusing coverage for procedures or drugs that violate the employer's beliefs.

So as we take time today to celebrate the achievements of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, we also must be aware of the need to continue to be vigilant.

We must reaffirm the guiding principles of the United States of America and the rights to religious freedom guaranteed under the First Amendment.

It was the right thing to do 20 years ago. It is the right thing to do today.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE
OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J.
SCHUMACHER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues JACKIE SPEIER and MIKE THOMPSON, to honor the life of the Honorable William F. Schumacher, who died peacefully and suddenly on November 3, 2013, at his home in Palm Desert, California.

Bill Schumacher was born in San Francisco in 1937. His mother, Anita Doyle, died when Bill was two years old, leaving Bill and his brother Robert to be raised by their father Edward with the help of Edward's parents, Eutrofia and Dominick Schumacher and later his wife Hazel Westphal. Bill was a graduate of both Saint Anne Grammar School and Lincoln High School. After serving in the Army, which included 15 months in Korea, he returned to graduate from San Francisco State University, and then went on to earn a JD from the University of San Francisco.

Bill Schumacher was our good friend for over three decades. He loved people and he

loved working on their behalf through his public service, which he did as a police officer, a college teacher, a member of the school board, a Daly City Councilman and Mayor, and as a member and Chairman of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. He was an attorney, a Boy Scout volunteer and a wise observer of politics, both local and national. It was a wonderful privilege to serve with him, be his friend, and laugh with him. Bill's love for public service was infectious, and he was a joyful and savvy politician. He knew the minute details of public policy, and he was a 'North County guy' through and through who never forgot from whence he came. He was passionate about protecting the working stiff, Daly City and the powerless. He always had a joke and a warm smile to greet you and started almost every conversation with "Lookin' good". He was a leader always looking to make peace and make a deal.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the life and memory of a great and good man who served the people of San Mateo County with honor and generosity, and enjoyed the respect of the entire community. We ask our colleagues to extend to his wife Liz, the love of his life, and his entire family our most sincere sympathy for their loss. In addition to his wife Elizabeth J. Terra Schumacher, Bill leaves his children Michael and Sharon Schumacher and their sons Taylor, Sean and Tim; James Schumacher and his sons Baxter and Niland; Diane Schumacher; and Gina Gibbons. He also leaves Liz's children, Gabrielle and Richard Modolo, and their daughters Sarah, Katherine and Richelle; and Marc and Shannon Pedone and their son Joseph.

Bill Schumacher will be missed by everyone who had the good fortune to know him, and we count ourselves among those so blessed. Our community was strengthened by his life of service, and our country has been immensely bettered by his patriotism, optimism and goodness.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR RACHEL L. FAILS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Command Sergeant Major Rachel L. Fails for appointment as the Senior Enlisted Leader of the Iowa National Guard. This is a truly momentous occasion for the State of Iowa as Rachel is the first female Senior Enlisted Leader in the Iowa National Guard's 175-year history.

CSM Fails currently resides in Grimes, but was raised in Nashua, Iowa where she graduated from Nashua High School in 1987. Rachel began her 27-year military career in 1986 when she enlisted with the Iowa Army National Guard's 1133rd Transportation Company based in Mason City. Upon graduation from basic training and AIT in 1987, Rachel attained two Military Occupational Specialties as a Heavy-Wheeled Vehicle Driver and a Unit Supply Specialist. CSM Fails is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy resident course and multiple Non-Commissioned Officer courses. In 1996, Rachel

also received an associate's degree in Business from North Iowa Area Community College.

Over the course of her career, Rachel has served her country in numerous full-time roles including unit armorer, unit supply sergeant, operations sergeant major, and various NCO roles. Throughout her service to our state and nation, Rachel has been placed across Iowa and across the globe in station assignments from Centerville to Johnston and as far away as Kosovo and Iraq. CSM Fails was deployed twice to the Middle East, during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, as an outspoken supporter of Iowa's National Guard I have always been impressed with the remarkable men and women who serve in this organization. Rachel Fail's career is a great example for our men and women in uniform and what Iowans are capable of through hard work and unwavering commitment to a cause greater than themselves. I applaud Command Sergeant Major Fails on her most recent promotion and wish her the greatest success. It is a great honor to represent her in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Rachel, and all of Iowa's servicemembers, on the continued excellence in service they provide to the State of Iowa, and our nation as a whole.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of passing comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the House. There is no question that it is long past time to fix our broken immigration system.

Earlier this year the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform after working with stakeholders to reach a balanced, albeit imperfect bill.

Then last month, my colleagues in the House introduced a comprehensive immigration reform bill that has gained the support of 190 bipartisan cosponsors.

Unfortunately House Republican leadership continues to block the path forward.

Their refusal to consider legislation that has strong bipartisan, bicameral support is in direct conflict with the will and the needs of the American people and our constituents.

There is growing unrest among the agricultural, business, and technology communities in addition to the advocacy organizations and faith groups.

In my own district, there are heart-wrenching stories of parents who made the dangerous journey here just so they could make sure their children have a place to live and something to eat back home.

They are separated not just by militarized borders, but by time—years and decades of not being able to see one another.

That is why it is so important that organizations like PICO and countless others are continuing to organize and rally to get this done.

At this moment, faith leaders are joined together on the National Mall as part of the Fast4Families event.

They are giving up their meals in order to emphasize the moral importance of passing comprehensive immigration reform.

They follow in the footsteps of leaders like Cesar Chavez, who in 1968 led a 25-day fast for the rights of migrant workers. Today's community leaders are fighting to fix another broken system, one that affects more than 11 million people from all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that in the 145 days since the Senate passed its immigration bill, House.

Republican leaders have dedicated what little time we have to a government shutdown, 40 billion dollars in SNAP cuts, and the repeal of Obamacare.

Republican leadership may not be tired of gridlock and dysfunction but the American people are.

The nation is ready to pass comprehensive immigration reform and we must not delay any longer.

TRIBUTE TO BARRY SULLIVAN

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Barry Kevin Sullivan on the occasion of his retirement as the Director of the Democratic Cloakroom after over 30 years of service to the House of Representatives and to our nation.

Barry came by his love for public service naturally. A native of South Boston, his father Leo served in the Massachusetts State Legislature and also as Boston Police Commissioner. After earning a degree in political science from Boston State College, Barry spent a few years on Beacon Hill before arriving in Washington in 1980 where he was mentored by two giants of this institution: Former Speaker Tip O'Neill and former Congressman Joe Moakley. Barry quickly became the heart and soul of the Democratic Cloakroom. Members of Congress count on him to be first to know what is happening on the floor, and he has a well-deserved reputation as the consummate professional.

While we will always miss Barry, I wish him and his wife Barbara the very best as they leave D.C. and get to enjoy some well-deserved family time on the Cape they love so much.

TRIBUTE TO BARRY SULLIVAN

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, Barry Kevin Sullivan has come to be known as "the man to know in the House." Serving as Chief Information Officer in the Democratic Cloakroom, Members have been looking to him for the past 33 years for everything from the now fa-

mous "Best Guesstimate for Last Vote," to last night's Red Sox score. When Members need to get a pulse reading on the floor, they turn to Barry. He is command central, and it's a job he's been masterful at.

This hasn't been by mere coincidence.

Barry is the son of Evelyn and Leo Sullivan. His father served as Massachusetts State Senator and Boston Police Commissioner who escorted President-elect John F. Kennedy from Logan International to the Boston Garden for his victory rally. He is an alumnus of Boston State University and a Beacon Hill veteran. His mentor Congressman Joe Moakley groomed him and Speaker Tip O'Neill promoted him. Barry Sullivan's pedigree has made him a consummate professional and uniquely and exceptionally suited to manage the cloakroom.

I rise to honor Barry Sullivan for his 33 years of service in the House Democratic Cloakroom and for being one of the most loyal and trustworthy people I've ever met. His kindnesses to me have been endless and he has enriched my daily service in the House for 21 years. I wish Barry every blessing in his retirement, enjoying happy and healthy days with his wife and the pride of his life, their three sons. May there be more time for bluefishing for Horseshoe Shoal, and cheering on the Red Sox.

Here's to you, Barry. God bless you and thank you for the honorable service you have given to our nation.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH PLAN ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3350, the so called "Keep Your Health Plan Act".

This bill is nothing more than the latest Republican effort to delay, defund, dismantle, or derail the Affordable Care Act.

I remain committed to ensuring that my constituents in California and millions across the country have access to quality, affordable health care.

Yet, the Republicans want nothing more than to capitalize on any opportunity to undermine the fundamental human right to healthcare. And that is what this latest attack is.

While we must certainly address any challenges that arise in the roll out and implementation of the Affordable Care Act, we cannot undermine its effectiveness by passing this cynical bill.

In fact, just today, I received an email from a constituent who said that his plan had been cancelled, but once he had a chance to view the options on Covered California—California's healthcare exchange—he found a better plan at a better price.

Stories like this one are happening all over the country and are further proof that we must not do anything to undermine the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

My constituents depend on it, as do millions of Americans.

I urge my colleagues to vote 'no' on this bill.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS:
HUNGER IN AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the stance of the Congressional Black Caucus in their daily fight to preserve, support and increase funding for initiatives to end hunger in America. The Congressional Black Caucus has proposed a fiscally sound and morally responsible budget that protects the SNAP program as well as other programs that are vital to vulnerable communities.

As a member of the House Hunger Caucus, Out of Poverty Caucus, and proud co-sponsor of H.R. 3353, the "Extend Not Cut SNAP Benefits Act" I am dedicated to educating my fellow Members on hunger-related issues as I understand the devastating impact hunger has on millions of children and families in our country.

The cuts in SNAP benefits implemented on November 1, 2013, reduce the amount per meal that beneficiaries receive to \$1.40, affecting not only the families that rely on SNAP but also straining the resources of local food pantries that will be pressed to fill the gap, to keep people from going hungry. Together, the SNAP meals lost in 2014 from the scheduled cuts—nearly 3.4 billion meals—would exceed the projected annual meal distribution by Feeding America food banks around the country.

Further, a family of 4 will receive \$36 less each month which translates into a week of groceries that will be taken away from poor working families, disabled persons, the elderly and children.

This reduction in benefits is the largest wholesale cut in the program since Congress passed the first Food Stamps Act in 1964 and affects nearly one in seven Americans or more than 47 million people. The cut is equivalent to 16 meals a month for a family of three.

SNAP programs lifted 4.7 million Americans above the poverty line in 2011, including 2.1 million children. Approximately 91% of SNAP benefits go to households with incomes below the poverty line. SNAP is also a win for the economy because every \$1 in benefits generates \$1.70 in economic activity.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas, my constituency, there are 154,741 persons who will suffer because of the reduction in food assistance to an average of \$1.40 meal. Studies have documented the inadequacy of this level of funding to meet the minimal nutrition requirements for children and families. Hundreds of thousands of Texans may go hungry if the cuts to the SNAP programs are not restored.

As I stated earlier I am a strong advocate for H.R. 3353, the "Extend Not Cut SNAP Benefits Act", which maintains SNAP benefits at the pre-November 1, 2013 levels and allows the House and Senate to work to reach agreement on the Fiscal Year 2014 budget for food programs.

Congress has the power to enact supporting legislation for the individuals, families, and communities that struggle with food security in our country. I encourage the collaboration of both sides of the aisle to work for this common good.

FEDERAL LANDS JOBS AND
ENERGY SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1965) to streamline and ensure onshore energy permitting, provide for onshore leasing certainty, and give certainty to oil shale development for American energy security, economic development, and job creation, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1965, a bill that would unnecessarily and irresponsibly give away public lands to Big Oil, even as U.S. oil production is at a 24-year high and the oil industry receives billions of dollars in tax breaks per year.

H.R. 1965 would remove the safeguards that protect taxpayers and public lands by requiring the Interior Department to grant leases on 25 percent of the land requested by oil companies every year and imposing strict deadlines on application review, automatically approving leases after just 60 days even if safety and environmental reviews are not yet complete. It would also enact barriers to public review—if a community wanted to challenge a leasing decision, it would have to pay a \$5,000 fee to be heard. If a case took more than 60 days to adjudicate, it would be automatically denied.

Mr. Chairman, under this Administration, domestic oil production has increased by 35 percent on Western public and Indian lands. Oil and gas companies are currently only developing about a third of the public lands they already lease. This bill, which would prioritize energy production over hunting, fishing, grazing, conservation, and every other use of public lands, will not reduce energy prices or increase energy security. It would simply cede control of natural resources held in public trust to already-profitable big oil companies. I urge a no vote.

PROTECTING STATES' RIGHTS TO
PROMOTE AMERICAN ENERGY
SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2728) to recognize States' authority to regulate oil and gas operations and promote American energy security, development, and job creation:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2728, which would prevent the federal government from ever implementing a uniform baseline level of safety and environmental protection in hydraulic fracturing operations across the country.

Today's bill would preempt a rulemaking process that is not yet completed and require the federal government to defer to state regulations of fracking on public lands, no matter

what those regulations may be. Moreover, because the bill forbids the Department of the Interior from exercising oversight over "any component of the fracking process, it could prevent application of basic protections under a variety of existing environmental laws.

States vary widely in their efforts to manage the expanded use of hydraulic fracturing and the federal government has a responsibility to provide a minimum baseline of oversight to protect our public lands, public safety, and public health. H.R. 2728 would block any proposed standards and impede existing law, and I urge a no vote.

FEDERAL LANDS JOBS AND
ENERGY SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1965) to streamline and ensure onshore energy permitting, provide for onshore leasing certainty, and give certainty to oil shale development for American energy security, economic development, and job creation, and for other purposes:

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 1965, the so-called Federal Lands, Jobs, and Energy Security Act. This bill would fundamentally undermine the way our public lands are managed by forcing us to prioritize oil drilling over all other land uses. Current law requires the federal government to manage public lands by taking into account a variety of uses, including recreation, wildlife habitats, and indeed, oil exploration. This bill would throw this successful historical precedent out the window and put the destructive practice of oil drilling at the top of the list. If this would happen in my home state of Florida, we would see devastating effects to the Florida panther—an iconic symbol of our state and also one of the most threatened species in the world. Panthers play a critical role in our ecosystem, but their habitat has been greatly diminished and now there are only 160 panthers. Fortunately, the government recognizes that we need to consider important species like the Florida panther when making land-use decisions. Today's legislation could destroy efforts to protect endangered species like the beloved Florida panther. That's why I urge a "no" vote and yield back my time.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. George Greek Orthodox Church during their 90th Year Anniversary.

The Valley's Greek population has roots dating back to the late 1800s. Weekly religious services were not available at the time, so a

Greek Orthodox priest would visit periodically to perform required services such as marriages, baptisms, and funerals. The infrequent visits by the priest prompted several individuals to consider establishing a church. In 1923, "The Greek Community of Fresno" was incorporated, and a priest from San Francisco began to visit regularly.

The first St. George Greek Orthodox Church was built in "Greek Town," where most of the Greek families had settled. The building served the Greek community for 50 years, and still stands today.

When World War II ended, families grew and began to move into other areas of Fresno. Businesses were expanding throughout the city, and a new church was built in 1955. In the years that followed, many new traditions such as the Greek Food Festival started. Not only is the festival an annual fundraiser for the church, but residents from all over the Central Valley attend the celebration so they can enjoy dancing, food, and rich Greek culture.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 90th Year Anniversary of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Their mission to provide an infinite amount of faith, hope, and love to the public is highly respected and praised.

RECOGNIZING OF THE ACHIEVEMENT WEEK BANQUET FOR THE PI LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Achievement Week Banquet for the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The chapter includes the communities of Prince William County, the City of Manassas, the City of Manassas Park and Stafford County.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded on Friday evening, November 17, 1911 by three Howard University undergraduate students, Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coleman, and their faculty adviser, Professor Ernest E. Just. Together they laid the foundation of an organization based on the core principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift. For one hundred years, the membership has upheld a strong tradition of friendship and civic engagement.

At this year's Annual Achievement Week Banquet, the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter honors the Achievement Week Award recipients. These awards are given to the men and women who, through their character and actions, preserve Omega Psi Phi's four founding principles. I congratulate the following individuals on being awarded these honors:

The Citizen of the Year Award: Congressman GERALD E. CONNOLLY

The Colonel Charles Young Military Leadership Award: Brother Colonel Drefus Lane

Omega Man of the Year: Brother Albert Woods

Founders Award: Brother Dr. Bryon Cherry, Sr.

Basileus Awards: Brother Lee Bennett, Jr. and Brother Erik Noel

Special Basileus Award: Leonard and Susie Gillespie and Gregory Scroggins: K2 Restaurant and Lounge

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in conveying our appreciation for years of civic service by the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It is civic groups like the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter that define the character of our communities and give measure to our generosity of spirit.

SHARING STORIES IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the following are stories of individuals affected by our nation's broken immigration system:

Story 1: I have been in this country for five years. I came from my country, Honduras, because I was a victim of domestic violence from my father. When I reported the abuses I was in danger because there were gangs that threatened me, and I was very scared. I was able to leave my country with no problems, thank God. I sought the opportunity to continue studying but I was asked for papers and they required me to have legal status. I waited for the Dream Act because, at the time, I was hearing a lot of talk about it. But, unfortunately, I didn't qualify for deferred action. I got desperate because I didn't want to spend much time without continuing my studies. A friend of mine suggested I go to Canada. When I was crossing through Buffalo, six immigration officials stopped me and treated me very badly. I told them that I was not a criminal and asked them not to treat me like that. I didn't resist, behave violently, or do anything for them to treat me like that. They made me feel like the worst person in this country, just because I didn't have documents. I just wanted the opportunity to continue my studies and I wanted for them to help me. I entered a jail with criminals, with women I had never seen in my life, that scared me just by looking at them. I could not sleep, could not eat in peace. I just kept thinking that at any moment there could be violence. Thank God my fiancé's family and church members raised the money to pay \$10,000, and now I'm waiting for the court because I have been given a deportation order. I don't want to continue living in the shadows. We are not criminals. We are people with dreams, with the same heart, the same blood that runs through our veins. We are people just like the citizens here. We are also part of this country, this is our home. Despite everything I've always considered it my home because I'm thankful I am here and that I'm still alive. If I would have stay in my country I would've died a long time ago. I only ask for immigration reform to take place soon, because the future of so many people is at stake. Update: Her deportation order has been postponed until 2014. Her child is due in September of 2013.

Story 2. I support a roadmap to citizenship, as a woman that came to this country 18 years ago and that have been through some hard times. Thank the Lord, today I am a U.S. citizen, and my children are U.S.-born citizens. I support a roadmap to citizenship for all the people that are suffering, that don't have a driver's license, that don't have documents and are afraid to lose their

families. I have an uncle who I adore and who is always afraid just with the thought that he could be deported one day, that's why I say yes to a roadmap to citizenship for all the people who are contributing to this country.

Story 3: I say yes to citizenship. I am Cuban, even though I was not [undocumented] when I came to this country I understand the need for the sisters and brother that are undocumented. I just heard the stories and what people feel when they have to drive, these are honest men and women that come to this country to give everything for their life. This is the land where honey and milk flow we are all immigrants and we need citizenship. Every person that does not have a criminal record should have citizenship. All those honest men and women, parents, grandparents, children without documents to go to school and who are getting behind because of not having their documents.

Respond, Obama, and all members of Congress. We say yes to citizenship. I am involved even though I am already a citizen. We have to support our brothers and sisters in the name of Jesus. May God bless and grant them with great wisdom. In the name of Jesus.

Story 4: I came to the United States in 1991. I planned to stay here for three years to finish my law degree. In 1994 I had an accident. That was my first battle. One can face many injustices in this country. I was denied medical attention at a hospital in Michigan. I did not have money, and since I wasn't covered by insurance I had to leave.

I stayed in the state of Michigan with this issue until February 1995. Then I moved to New York. In New York I was diagnosed with a torn knee ligament (MCL) on my right knee. The cost of the surgery was \$65,000. Therefore, I didn't have any other option than to go to Mexico. I had the surgery done after six months. I suffered a lot. Can you imagine? My right knee meniscus and ligaments were torn and the pain was unbearable. The hospital's policy of no discrimination posted on the walls in big bold letters is completely false.

I had another accident in 2006 here in Immokalee, Florida. The lawyers of Azteca Supermarket tried to blackmail me with threats of calling immigration and many other threats of this kind. Then, I basically dropped the case after writing a letter to the judge in which I called the lawyers cannibals and the fact that they were lawyers didn't mean I couldn't press charges against them. The lawyers of Azteca Supermarket dropped the case as well.

I have witnessed situations in which workers have been hit by their employers. In fact, I have experienced that same situation myself. When I was living in New York, I used to work at a store where a [Korean] hit me. I have witnessed many injustices in this country. We need comprehensive immigration reform so that employers stop abusing undocumented workers. Today I am diabetic, perhaps because I didn't get treatment on time. After my first accident I went through a period of depression and much suffering, watching how apathetic people were. I didn't comprehend how even though I was working, the hospitals here in United States wouldn't treat me. I was contributing to the economy of this country and the hospitals denied me the right to medical attention. There are many things I would like talk about, but time is short. I'd like to talk to Congress. I'd like to talk to the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and I'd like to tell them myself why it is important to have immigration reform.

If we are contributing to this economy on a daily basis with our work and sweat, it is inhumane deny us medical attention, education and the opportunity to prepare ourselves to be better. I want to reiterate that

is very important to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Story 5: Hello. I'm from Argentina, but I've been in the United States for 12 years. I am very appreciative of this country because it has opened doors for us, because we came from Argentina where things are really bad. Please, we need immigration reform, a path to citizenship, because we don't have driver's licenses, we don't have health insurance, and we don't have anything to help us stay safe in this country. We want to stay here, we're not going to leave, and for that I say yes to urgent immigration reform, yes to fast citizenship. I'm a 63-year-old grandmother, and I've worked a lot in Miami, but now we can't work nor do anything because we don't have papers. My daughter is unemployed because she doesn't have papers. She is 23 years old and doesn't have papers. I have married children, but they are married to undocumented people, not to people with papers. Please, we need urgent immigration reform.

Story 6: I want to say yes to citizenship because I believe, just like me, so many good people have come to work in this country, to help and contribute to the economy. I have been living here for 15 years. I am a person like any other, and I believe and think that citizenship is necessary because we have earned it with our work and the sweat on our foreheads, and it would help us so much because we face too much discrimination in our jobs. They rob us, pay us low wages, and there has to be an end. Also, I'd like to say that if there is citizenship or a bill, it would be a great help to the economy of this country and I'd also like to say thank you to all of you for doing all of this, for making us a part of this huge force, and of course, yes to citizenship.

Story 7: I am supporting immigration reform for citizenship. I am in this country illegally. I want to be a citizen so that I can contribute to this nation. Thank you very much.

Story 8: It's been six years since I came from Mexico. I came to this country because the situation in Mexico is very critical. There's a lot of crime, you know. There are so many criminals who kill like it's nothing. There's no work. I say yes to immigration reform so that we can be American citizens. I also consider this country like my own, and I say yes to reform.

Story 9: I am a native of Jalisco, Mexico, and I was born in 1969. I'm from a rural area in Jalisco. I came to the United States when I was 14 years old. I worked in a farm in Homestead, which opened opportunities for me in this country and I received my residency in '86. Now I am working with the University of Miami, and I volunteer with the Florida Farmers Association. The Association made me President of the Board of Directors, and now I am telling them that we can help reform our immigration system and asking them to support immigration reform if they can. This is what I'm doing for the immigrant community living in the country. Above all else, I am also asking that all the states in the United States approve driver's licenses because, independently of whether reform happens or not, people will come to this country with papers, they will overstay their visas, and stay undocumented. I am asking for reform for the immigrants that come to this country.

Story 10: For me, it is very important that some kind of reform takes place because it is very difficult for us to stay here in this country with all the problems from the police regarding driver's licenses and without the benefits that everyone else gets. Many Americans consider us to be below them simply because we don't have papers, because we have no way to defend ourselves, because we are treated by the police, and all that. We

should have so many more benefits so that we can hold a job. It is very difficult to keep a job without papers. I would like for undocumented immigrants to be okay in the United States like everyone else that has papers, for us to be okay with the law, because it is very difficult for me.

Story 11: I am a farm worker, mainly working on farms picking oranges. I've had many jobs: picking apples, working with tobacco, and doing a lot of other agricultural work. Another thing, I am a citizen. My parents were in Texas when I was born. They worked there after they came from Mexico and they were undocumented. My relatives and I were born therein Texas during the World War, and the United States was fighting. This country needed a lot of manpower, so they let a lot of undocumented people in to work here because they needed to sustain the jobs here so that the country would survive. Because of this, there were many undocumented people here. When the war finished, the excuse they gave was that because the soldiers were returning here, they didn't need undocumented workers, so there were raids to return all the undocumented people and the families that had these groupings, including American citizens, and they sent us back to our countries. That happened when I was a child. Now the same thing is repeating but with a different excuse—now it's the economy, that's why they're sending them back to their countries. This thing is that people who are not from here are returning, they're returning to their families, their children, who are American citizens. Sometimes they deport the father or the mother or a few times both, and the kids stay separated from their parents. In this country it is presumed that families should be together, but for undocumented people, we're not given what everyone says we should have. What I'm saying here is that we have been living in this country for many, many years, so we need to do something. There needs to be reform to the existing immigration laws. We need to fight for immigration reform that can fix the existing problems, so that they can classify undocumented people who are here and unite families so that all the injustices that are occurring can stop. If you don't have a license, you're a criminal and they deport you. They separate families, and the kids are the ones that suffer. Now that President Obama was reelected, there a lot of possibility for immigration reform, but what do we have to do? We need to unite to achieve just reform in a way that everyone, or the majority, can qualify to receive their documents and can be here legally.

Story 12: More than anything for me, I'd like them to give us the chance to visit our families and to be able to move, for work if not for anything else. We hope that there will be something that benefits all of us, not just me, but for everyone that needs it. I've been in the country for 12 years and until now we've been doing well, but because we don't have licenses, we can't go anywhere easily. But, as far as work and everything else we are all well, thank God.

Story 13: I'm from Puerto Rico, and I live in Miami. I joined the caravan [organized by the Florida Immigrant Coalition to support immigration reform] because since I arrived in this country, I knew something was not right. There's a community of 11 million people that work hard for their country, this country, my country, but my country is punishing them. These people aren't criminals. I've met so many of them through the caravan and they are farmworkers—maybe they're kicking them out because of that, because they're not engineers, or doctors—but these are the people that put my breakfast on the table every morning.

Like I said, I'm from Miami, and all I have to do is go to the grocery store and buy some oranges. But I've met a lot of people that get up when the sun comes out, go to bed when the sun goes down, and on top of paying them so little, the city is trying to kick them out. When I was in school, I was taught the word "democracy." My teacher taught me that in a democracy, as long as you do right, things will turn out right for you. And I'm seeing a lot of people that are doing things right but things are going right simply because they came from another place. Like I said earlier, it really hurts me to see someone from Mexico, or Peru, from wherever, that the department of immigration, local police, the federal government, sometimes President Obama, sometimes Republicans, sometimes Democrats treat them like less. I'm Puerto Rican, I'm an American citizen, and I am nothing better than these people. These people are so humble and work hard just like me, and this is what brings me to causes like this one. I met a young man who's Mexican who's hanging out with us, he has four children, he's incredibly humble, and he's a hard worker. The only crime he's done is to wake up every morning, go home every night, and put food on the table. That's his only crime, to put food on the table, to feed his kids who are U.S. citizens. Four kids that if they were to deport their dad, the kids would end up orphans. And it seems to me the government doesn't have an interest in more orphaned kids, the Department of Children and Families isn't asking for more orphans. You would think the government would want less.

Story 14: I am here as a volunteer in the movement because, well, right now I personally work with immigrant families and see the destruction that exists in families, separating and deporting parents, including citizens who have children born here and those children are still suffering the consequences. And, personally, I have a daughter in Mexico and one in California. My daughter who is in California is illegal as well, unfortunately. And my daughter who is in Mexico does not have the same opportunities as my daughter here. I haven't seen my daughter or her family in 18 years. My grandchildren in California do not know my grandchildren in Mexico, and it is a very great sadness that I carry. Every time I look at the separated families, even though it hasn't affected me directly if, for example, my son or my husband were the deported, the fact that my daughters have not seen each other for so many years, that my grandchildren will not know each other each other—it hurts. I see so many families dealing with this type of separation in my daily work. These families ask me for help because they know I can help them with transportation, translation, or filling out paperwork. But unfortunately I cannot do much for them, even though I wholeheartedly want to. I do what I can but others can do more. I am in this caravan hoping that immigration reform can benefit all families, including mine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 598, I was not present for the vote due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE ROGERS FAMILY

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rogers' family for their commitment to volunteer their time and talents towards community service. They encourage one another to support their community through church, military, and school activities.

Joel and Felicia Rogers are native Omahans who have given back to their community in a large way. On top of raising seven children, the Rogers' have maintained a strong ethic of serving their community through their faith service and commitment to excellence.

Joel, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, currently serves as a Legislative Policy Analyst in the Commander's Action Group of the U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base. Joel points to his parents' strong support and his firm upbringing as the underpinning of his and Felicia's parenting and leadership strategies. During his 28-year career in the military Joel has led major efforts for the Marine Corps both domestic and abroad. Joel's service has earned him the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, among many other accolades. Currently, Joel volunteers with the Papillion Recreation Organization (PRO), and supports the annual Toys for Tots drive put on by the Marine Corps.

Felicia serves as the district director in my Omaha Congressional office. She is a highly skilled administrator with expertise built from service in public, private, and non-profit organizations. Felicia dedicates much of her time to faith based and school activities within our community. Some of her past community efforts have taken place with the Wesley House leadership academy, Toys for Tots, the Girls Club of Omaha, and as the 2nd Lieutenant with the 99th Pursuit Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. Currently, the Rogers family actively participates at Life Church Omaha raising funds to send groups of missionaries to Zimbabwe and Haiti.

Joel and Felicia have been blessed with seven children. Javin, the eldest, is the Product Launch Director for Kenexa. Clifton works as a design and production manager in the media/advertising industry, and is a professional musician on the side. Three of the Rogers' sons decided to take after their father and serve their country as United States Marines. Blake serves as a Staff Sergeant specializing in advanced communications. Darnell is a Sergeant specializing in imagery analysis. Dwayne, a Corporal in the Marine Reserves, is currently a college student in Omaha. Ryan, 11, is a fifth grader in the Papillion La-Vista school district and an active baseball and basketball player. Zoe, 11, and the only daughter in the Rogers family is also a fifth grader and plays volleyball for Team Dazzle in Papillion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN CAMPAIGNS (CIVIC) ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to establish a program of limited tax credits and tax deductions to get average Americans more involved in the political process. This bill, the Citizen Involvement in Campaigns (CIVIC) Act, will broaden the base of political contributors.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, during the 2011–2012 election cycle candidates winning a seat in the House spent an average of more than \$1.5 million. Viewed in the aggregate, more than \$4.25 billion was contributed to campaigns for federal office, with more than 63 percent of this total given in chunks of \$200 or more. Donors making contributions of \$200 or more were a small segment of our population, about one-half of one-percent of all adults (Center for Responsive Politics). Is it any wonder then that some believe that large campaign donors have undue influence with the winning candidates?

We need to take a fresh look at innovative approaches to campaign finance reform, with special attention paid to ideas that encourage, and not restrict, greater participation in our campaigns. Toward this end, I have been advocating tax credits and deductions for small political contributions for many years. An updated tax credit system would be a simple and effective means of balancing big donors and bringing individual contributors back to our campaigns. The impact of this counterweight will reduce the burden of raising money, as well as the appearance of impropriety that accompanies the money chase.

Most would agree that the ideal way to finance political campaigns is through a broad base of donors. But, as we are all painfully aware, the economic realities of modern-day campaigning lead many candidates to focus most of their efforts on collecting funds from a few large donors. This reality alienates many Americans from the political process.

The concept of empowering small donors is not a new idea. For example, from 1972 to 1986, the federal government offered a tax credit for small political contributions. This provided an incentive for average Americans to contribute to campaigns in small amounts while simultaneously encouraging politicians to solicit donations from a larger pool of contributors. Currently, five geographically and politically diverse states (Oregon, Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia, and Arkansas.) offer their own tax credits for political contributions. These state-level credits vary in many respects, but all share the same goal of encouraging citizens to become more involved.

The CIVIC Act can begin the process of building this counterweight for federal elections. This bill is designed to encourage Americans who ordinarily do not get involved in politics beyond casting a vote every two or four years (that is, if they bother to vote at all) to become more active participants in our political process.

The CIVIC Act will reestablish and update the discontinued federal tax credit. Taxpayers can choose between a 100 percent tax credit

for political contributions to federal candidates or national political parties (limited to \$200 per taxable year), or a 100 percent tax deduction (limited to \$600 per taxable year). Both limits, of course, are doubled for joint returns. As long as political parties and candidates promote the existence of these credits, the program can have a real impact and aid in making elections more grassroots affairs than they are today.

A limited tax credit for political contributions can be a bipartisan, cost-efficient method for helping balance the influence of large money donors in the American electoral process. Instead of driving away most Americans from participation in political life, we can offer an invitation for citizens to play a larger role in political campaigns. It seems to me that this will be a fruitful way to clean up our system, while at the same time convincing Americans that they actually have a meaningful stake in elections. I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor the Citizen Involvement in Campaigns Act.

HONORING VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION AND HOSPICE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MONTH

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of the Florida Keys Month.

Twenty-nine years ago, VNA Hospice of the Florida Keys began providing specialized home health care services to the residents of Monroe County. Today, thanks to the organization's continued and dedicated service, it stands as a beacon in the home health care industry.

The work they do is vital in empowering patients to live their lives fully and providing comfort in their time of need. Home health care services provide essential benefits to my community and those across the country. The VNA Hospice, for instance, has donated almost half a million dollars in charity care to residents in my district over the last two years alone. In celebration of November, Home Care and Hospice Month, I would like to extend my congratulations and sincere thanks to the VNA Hospice for 29 years of excellent service.

CONGRATULATING STATE CHAMPION MINNETONKA GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Minnetonka High School Girls Soccer Team. The talented group of young ladies demonstrated extreme passion, intensity, and dedication to their school in a hard-fought effort to win this year's Girls State High School Championship.

The team had a phenomenal season, finishing with a record of 17–2–2. Four of their players, Maggie Crist, Ellen Mau, Elizabeth

Endy, and Alli Bakken were selected for the all-tournament team. The Skippers allowed only two goals throughout the playoffs and shutout Lakeville North in the championship final. The only goal of the game was scored in the 56th minute by junior forward Ellen Mau, solidifying the championship for the Skippers. Showing true sportsmanship, Mau later stated, "We are proud of ourselves for getting one past that defense because we know how tough they are. It's also exciting we could get this result against an equally as good of a team."

The ladies of this team exemplified hard work, sportsmanship, and dedication the entire season and portray what it means to be a student athlete. I would also like to commend the coaches for leading their team to the Skipper's first championship since 2001.

Finally, a special congratulation goes out to senior Elizabeth Endy for being named Girls' Soccer Metro Player of the Year and Minnesota Ms. Soccer.

Mr. Speaker, the Minnetonka Girls Soccer Team displayed a positive standard for all of their classmates and the community. It's an honor to be able to represent, and recognize, such all-star athletes. To the entire team, coaching staff, and school: congratulations and go Skippers!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 590, I was not present for the vote due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO THE RICHARDSON FAMILY

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of the Richardson family and honor them for the strength they display to overcome obstacles and continue to be a loving family. Through adoption they have welcomed their children into their home and created a loving family unit.

Patti Richardson is dedicated to serving her nine children, no matter their background. When Patti comes across a child in need, she is always there with open arms willing to welcome them home. She invests significant amounts of time and money in these children, filling her home and yard with toys, exercise equipment, and other tools.

The Richardson family consists of Ragina, 22, who was born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and ADHD. Also born with congenital heart disease, Ragina required surgery to fix it at the age of one. As the eldest child in the house, Ragina looks after her younger siblings. Next is 10 year old Wesley. Wesley has ADHD as a result of being exposed to methamphetamine before birth. Aidan, of 7 years

old, is the next oldest child in the house. Aidan has a congenital heart disease and had open-heart surgery when he was only two months old. Anahla, 5, and Lasia, 4, complete the long list of adopted children in the Richardson household. Patti also has three birth children, William, Jeffery, and Mikayla, all of whom are now adults.

Sadly, the family has suffered through the loss of two of their own. Corey, a shaken baby who Patti fostered and then adopted, passed suddenly at the age of three. Andrew, Patti's youngest birth child, has also passed from brain cancer. The family thinks of Andrew frequently and Patti believes that he gives her guidance to help her through the stress and heartache that she sometimes faces while caring for her children.

The Richardson family illustrates the hope and love we know exists in our communities. It is my privilege and honor to represent the Richardsons and others like them in my community.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, this year, our nation will celebrate the 92nd annual American Education Week, which is a week running from November 18–22, 2013.

This special week serves as a wonderful opportunity for all Americans to celebrate public education and honor those individuals who dedicate themselves to ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

American Education Week is intended to recognize all who make a difference in our education system—from teachers to education support professionals to parents.

In Ohio public schools, we have 112,845 full time equivalent teachers, 3,642 guidance counselors and directors, 3,196 librarians and staff, and 104,394 administrators and support staff.

It is these individuals who ensure that our students gain the necessary skills and education for a productive and bright future.

As a supporter of these great Americans and as a former college administrator, I believe it's essential to raise public awareness about the importance of public education.

I am proud to show my appreciation for the key role educators play in the lives of every child in America.

We must ensure that we all do our part in making public schools a great foundation for every child, so they can achieve and succeed in the 21st century.

I celebrate the teachers in kindergarten classrooms, high school labs, and university halls.

I celebrate the school counselors who counsel adolescents and help students carve out career aspirations.

I celebrate the coaches, school nurses, social workers, and special education teachers.

I also celebrate those who transport students to and from schools and extra-curricular events because our students also need the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom.

Thank you to all who make our public schools better and improve our public education system.

I look forward to working in partnership with parents, community leaders, and elected officials to help improve our nation's public education.

I know firsthand the difference a quality education makes in a child's life.

The foundation of a strong democracy is high quality public education that is accessible to all.

That is what helps promote a fair and just society.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the importance of American Education Week and public education.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALVIN J. QUIST

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Alvin J. Quist, who passed away on October 29, 2013 at the age of 89. Alvin exemplified the very best of what our nation has to offer. He was a hard working dairyman, proud World War II veteran, and an American hero devoted to military and public service.

Alvin was born into a Danish immigrant family and grew up on a dairy farm. He was active in 4-H and later became involved in the Future Farmers of America at Central Union High School where he also played football and served as student body president. Upon graduating from high school, Alvin attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) to major in Dairy Science.

In 1943, Alvin's studies were interrupted as he proudly joined the United States Marine Corp during World War II. When the war ended, Alvin returned to Camp Pendleton to help wounded soldiers transition back to civilian life.

Alvin met the love of his life, Mary Briggs, in July 1946, and they married a year later. He finished his degree, and graduated from Cal Poly in 1947. Alvin and Mary moved to the Kearney Park area so Alvin could join his father on the dairy farm. They milked 90 cows and farmed 300 acres.

A distinguished community leader in the agricultural industry, Alvin sat on a wide range of boards including Fresno Irrigation District, California Milk Advisory Board, Fresno County Farm Bureau, and Big Fresno Fair Board. Alvin gave back to his community unconditionally based on his faith and love for God.

Family was most important to Alvin. He was an extremely loving husband and father to his son, Jim, and daughters, Debbie and Marsha. Alvin cherished spending time with his grandchildren and gladly attended their school functions, sporting events, and dance recitals.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Alvin J. Quist. He was a proud American and leaves a legacy of hope and faith for many generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SCHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 600 I was not present for the vote due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 588 and 589, I was unable to be present. My wife had surgery that day, November 18, 2013, and I needed to be by her side.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all said votes.

RECOGNIZING DAVID LAVERY AND THE MARS SCIENCE LABORATORY TEAM FOR RECEIPT OF THE SAMUEL J. HEYMAN SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDAL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent David Lavery, as well as his colleagues on the Mars Science Laboratory Team for being awarded the Samuel J. Heyman Science and Environment Medal. The Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (referred to as the Sammys) pay tribute to America's dedicated federal workforce, highlighting those who have made significant contributions to our country. Honorees are chosen based on their commitment and innovation, as well as the impact of their work on addressing the needs of the nation.

As Program Executive for Solar System Exploration, Mr. Lavery leads the Curiosity rover mission to Mars that is exploring the Red Planet's geology and climate and assessing whether conditions are favorable for microbial life and future human exploration. This historic mission is the culmination of more than a decade of perseverance, engineering breakthroughs, and scientific innovations. The mission's findings will rewrite the textbooks on the geology of Mars and shed light on the possibility of life-supporting environments there.

Working on the cutting edge of space exploration at NASA was Mr. Lavery's childhood dream. Although unable to become an astronaut, he has twice helped place American technology on the surface of another planet. His first flight project was Sojourner—a rover sent to Mars in 1997. For the Curiosity mission, Lavery carefully supervised every step of the process leading to the launch. According to Jonathan Rall, assistant director of NASA's Planetary Science Division, "Without Dave's

constant oversight for this mission, it would not have been successful."

This award is just the latest achievement in an amazing public service career that extends beyond NASA to include his years mentoring the robotics team at Herndon High School, guiding them in national competitions and inspiring generations of young Americans to pursue careers in science and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to the Dave Lavery and the eight other public servants from around the country who have been honored with Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals this year. Their achievements range from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than \$1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. They all deserve our thanks and respect.

SHARING STORIES IN SUPPORT OF
COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION
REFORM**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the following are stories of individuals affected by our nation's broken immigration system:

Story 1: Legalization is necessary. There are many things that people don't know that the authorities do. In my case, I've lived through three or four accidents that I saw, and I am the only one who saw and I didn't testify because I'm scared. I think that because of that they closed a lot of cases. I'd like something to be done. Also, at work, there are three or four companies that haven't paid me and discriminate in a lot of things that happen. We, who work with meat, know a lot of things that aren't easy to say to anyone for fear of what that information would do and because of that, reform is necessary.

I'm Mexican and I've been here for 21 years. Ultimately, the truth that I've seen a lot of things that shouldn't exist for human beings to practice these types of things. Because realistically, all of us deserve to live as best as possible and I think that there is a way that we can live and do whatever type of work, without being treated the way they treat us. We want to be welcome wherever we want to go.

Story 2: I arrived in the United States approximately 25 years ago. Thank God I am now an American citizen, but I have many friends who suffer because they do not have their documents. One of the hardships is that they are not allowed to work or go to many places. For example, there are jobs that they are able to do, but they're not allowed into those places. So they can make \$20 or \$25 per hour, but they're making \$15 or less because they can't go to the place, even though they can do the job. So I say yes to immigration reform because it helps the government as well. The government makes money for giving out papers. People are going to buy cars, they're going to buy houses, they're going to travel within the United States. So, the money that they're going to pay to get their papers is more than they contribute to the United States now. They will travel to their

home countries to visit their parents, their siblings—I think that will be something very good for the country as well.

Story 3: I arrived 22 years ago from San Marcos, Guatemala. Thank God we had the opportunity to have papers, but we are here to support our people. We want everyone to be equal and to have the opportunity that we had. So it is great that there is a possibility at reform for all. The only thing we can do is support in any way we can—by meeting and being with them. I think that people can work legally and do many things.

Story 4: I'm from Guatemala. I've been here with my wife for nine years and we are nothing in this country. We came here for the purpose of allowing our family to succeed. In Guatemala, the circumstances over there don't allow for success. For that reason, we came here to have a life a little better than what we had there. All we are asking is for the Senators and the people listening to this recording to support us because the majority of Hispanics that are in the United States are here to work and support this country. For that, we want to be heard and we want to say yes. We want to arrive to citizenship because we need it. You see on TV and in the news that many families are suffering and many families are crying. There have been many deportations, and we don't want that that continue. We want all families to feel happy and live happily here, but they're scared. We don't want people to continue living in fear. For that we make the invitation to collaborate, because everything we can do, we will do. We don't want racism, for example. Here there are various nationalities from various countries, and we are unified for this cause. We will continue uniting, for whatever work there is. I work in landscaping, cutting branches on trees, on palms, cleaning gardens. Right now, we don't have kids and my wife and I have been married for seven years.

Story 5: I am originally from Guatemala. I immigrated to the United States in 1987 at age 18. I turned 18 while crossing the desert. There I celebrated my birthday. From there I went to work on a farm for three or four years. In that time, the situation was much more difficult, but I had the opportunity to work in different jobs. Around that time I was a beneficiary of the NACARA law, which allowed me to apply. I saw that the NACARA law benefitted me a lot because I was able to have some economic stability for my family. I have been married for 22 years, and I have a 19-year-old son. The NACARA law has always helped me, so of course I feel like there is a need for immigration reform because it would benefit my community so much. The people who are here can grow economically and help their families. They can create businesses and jobs in our country. That is why people emigrate here, because there are no jobs in their home countries. I don't know, governments don't invest in creating jobs and so people in immigration limbo don't want to invest because they don't know what will happen. I feel that it's a necessity, and I think we deserve it. We are working people. The majority that come here come for work. We don't come for public benefits. In my community, very few are the type to try to get social assistance. The majority, like my case, came and paid taxes, and they have been paying taxes since coming to the United States.

They deported me in 1987 after I was detained in Krome. I was held in Krome for a month or a month and a half before they sent me to my land. It's very frustrating, because I'm from a town very far from the capital. At that time, it was about eight hours

by truck. I didn't know anything when I arrived. I was in a city I had never been to before. It was very difficult, but I didn't turn back because I had no alternative. There was no work. I graduated with my Master's degree and came back here because there were no job opportunities there and because the political situation was very hard.

Story 6: I've been in this country 17 years. I came alone, made my family here, so for sure my wife is here by my side. I have two daughters, one who is 13 years old, and I still have no papers. But I've kept going because now I have no choice but to keep fighting harder, for my daughters' benefit more than anything. I'm working and, I don't know, I hope that this immigration reform that they're fighting over will be given to us because it will allow us to benefit the country. For me and my kids, immigration reform will give them greater security to have their parents here in this country without having to hide from immigration and the police. For work, I can't drive a truck to get to my job. I have to go with someone that has a license to drive, and it's very much the difference in salary, even though I know the work and everything, it's a point less for me. That is the first thing for me. I want to buy a car or something that can benefit me and my family and help me to do my duty for this country. Up until now I've tried to not put myself into problems. I try not to go out too much or go to parties and things like that. I'm over that, and I'd rather be with my family and without any problems. But, I can't go wherever I want. My wife has family here, they all have papers. I haven't seen my family in 16 or 17 years. My boss fired me and I'd like to go to Mexico, but I can't because I wouldn't be able to come back. I have no other choice but to stay for my kids.

Story 7: I'm a little nervous because my story is sad, but I'm now happy because I am without problems, without any preoccupation. They confused me with a certain person, but I never robbed anyone and I always maintained that it wasn't me. They received the evidence from the other person, it was very sad and painful, and because being in prison is not easy at all and is very unpleasant. It's very sad for people as well as their families. My family worried day and night, and I was wondering that I that I wouldn't get out, but with the will of God I got out with a \$7,500 bail. I had about four court dates. They sent me to Krome, and from there I told the judge to give me voluntary leave to my country. When I left, they told me that I had to report to Mexican immigration. I went and entered and delivered a paper that they gave me, but I always knew that I wanted to return. I was in my country for a month, and then came back. Since then, thank God, I have not gotten in trouble. I don't drive, and I don't do anything because I am holding out because if God helps us with this reform we will come out ahead. Firstly to God, we ask a lot, to the congressmen, to the Senate and the President, that they have a lot of consideration for so many people who need equality. I came in April of 1990. I am Mexican, and all my siblings are citizens. I'm the only one who is not. I hope for the day when I can be equal to everyone else.

Story 8: I'm a mother of two children who were born here in Florida. They deported my husband to Guatemala five years ago. We are united and want to ask Congress and the White House to support us, that yes we can, that now is the time for them to give us immigration reform. We are encountering many families going through difficult situations and we ask, we beg, we ask wholeheartedly, that we are supported in this country. All of us immigrants reinforce this country's economy. We beg that they give us

immigration reform. They stopped my husband and asked for a license, which he didn't have. That was the reason they deported him. It's a very difficult case and my kids suffer a lot from the absence of their father.

Story 9: I support immigration reform because I've encountered those problems. When I didn't have papers, I was always living in hiding and I do not want others to go through the same problem. I wish that everyone could have their papers to live in peace and tranquility.

Story 10: I am an American citizen and I want to remind the Congressmen of the United States that my vote will go to the people who have humanity when it's time to decide on immigration reform. Make it a humane immigration reform, not one based on the whims of Congressmen. My vote will always be for the humane Congressmen. Immigration reform will help all those that don't have papers or a path to citizenship. We remember that there should be a path to citizenship with a quick process, not like what Senator Marco Rubio and his colleagues want. We will always vote against the people who think like that.

Story 11: I'm Nicaraguan. I am 35 years old and came to this country 13 years ago. My dream is to bring my family to the United States. I came with just that one goal because the democratic system in my country doesn't work. I've lived through many hardships and because of those I immigrated to the United States. Now with 13 years here, we ask for immigration reform and the opportunity for citizenship because we want to be incorporated into society. We want to be a part of it. We want the opportunity to vote, to apply to whatever we need. Immigration reform will be good for the country as well as for us if we can contribute. My dream is to buy my house and continue in my studies because I don't want to stay stagnant. I want to move my daughters forward. I have two daughters; one was born in Nicaragua and the other is an American citizen who was born in this country. I can't imagine returning to my country, I don't have any plans to do so. I hope that the legislators and President Obama support reform, because now we are ready to be a part of this great country.

Story 12: I've been here for 12 years, going on 13, and I brought my two daughters, when one was two and a half and the other was a year old. They believe that this is their country, and I do as well. I came here and we liked it. We came from my country because life is very difficult there. Now there's a lot of crime. I am Mexican and it is very hard to live there now. My daughters don't want to return to Mexico because of everything we've seen over there—a lot of crime, a lot of killing. There's no work, no way to move forward. My daughters say that this is their country, they are Mexican but they are home. They speak English and Spanish very well, but they say that all they know is this country. So I say yes to citizenship for all the people that are like me in this country. We don't have licenses to work or to even look for a job. I had a job and some people did me harm. They sent me a letter and fired me from the job, and now I am unemployed. I need to work to help my daughters get ahead, and so I say that now is the time that we help all people, the 11 million undocumented people in this country. We came for honest work. We came to do the jobs that many people won't do. Please, it is the time for citizenship, something so we can be okay here and so we don't have to go somewhere and be afraid that they'll stop the bus where we are, that they take us to immigration and deport us while my daughters are in school. It's an ugly and sad thing, and I say yes that now is the time for immigration re-

form. To the Senators and all the people hearing this message, please help us for the immigration reform that we are all hoping for and we hope that this is the year that it happens.

Story 13: I'm Nicaraguan and got TPS in 1998. I had a problem. A policeman gave me a DUI because I had a neck problem. I lost consciousness because of the medicine that I took, which was not supposed to be taken while driving, but I did it because I needed to pick up some money urgently. I say yes to citizenship. Right now I am in a limbo because of my immigration status. They removed my TPS. After they removed my TPS, I was sent to immigration court with a lawyer who told me to apply for political asylum. But they didn't approve it and asked me for voluntary departure. Every day I feel that, if they get me, I am going to be deported to my country. Now I have 16 years working here contributing to the productivity and economy of this country. I have worked honestly. The problem I had was because I wasn't well represented in court about the DUI. I paid lawyers but it was useless for me because they were not able to defend me. I have evidence that proves that the police gave false evidence. I was an industrial electrical engineer in my country, and I intend to work with dignity, honesty, with the sweat of my brow to succeed, because if I go back to my country, I have no chance of surviving there.

Story 14: I arrived in the United States in 1985 to study. I have three kids, and we need immigration reform. Please. In the name of God, we need this reform because it is hard not having a license.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 601, I was not present for the vote due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

A TRIBUTE TO WILL CROCKER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding North Carolinian, Will Crocker, who has served as the Clerk of Court for Johnston County, North Carolina, for almost thirty-five years. Mr. Crocker assumed his current post in 1978, but has been an outstanding public servant since 1959, when he first began working as a clerk for Selma Recorder Court. He has since dedicated himself wholly to bettering this great community, and I ask you to join me in recognizing his long and honorable career.

Mr. Crocker's hard work and devotion have been vital to the continual development of Johnston County. Throughout Mr. Crocker's

tenure, he has continuously held an open-door policy, and has committed himself to high ethical standards. Respected by all who know him, he has been the recipient of many awards and accolades recognizing his hard work and dedication to his job. After Hurricane Fran, the violent storm that devastated much of Eastern North Carolina in 1996, every government office in town was closed except one: the clerk's office.

Mr. Speaker, Will Crocker has selflessly dedicated many years of his life to serving the citizens of Johnston County. His enduring commitment to his community makes him an exemplary public servant, and his accomplishments will continue to benefit Eastern North Carolina for many years to come. As his time as Clerk of Court comes to a close, let us honor Mr. Crocker and pray that both he and his family may receive God's richest blessings.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLIFF HAGEDORN, AN AMERICAN PATRIOT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of Cliff Hagedorn, a long time resident of Des Plaines, Illinois, and a pillar of our local veteran community. Mr. Hagedorn is a great example of a true American patriot.

Cliff Hagedorn grew up in Des Plaines—graduating from what is today Maine East High School and marrying his high school sweetheart, Valerie. Like so many other Americans during World War II, Mr. Hagedorn enlisted in the U.S. Army and prepared to risk his life on behalf of our nation.

On Easter Sunday 1944, Cliff Hagedorn landed with the allied forces in North Africa, and participated in actions that eventually stopped and then reversed German advances in the region. After succeeding in North Africa, he and his fellow soldiers spent the remainder of the war in Italy, pushing German forces back at every opportunity.

After the war, Cliff Hagedorn's contributions to his community continued—he raised a family in Des Plaines and helped to create the Des Plaines Senior Center. The Senior Center continues to offer vital services to this day and Mr. Hagedorn now holds emeritus status with the organization.

Cliff Hagedorn has also been an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2992 for several decades. In fact, earlier this month he celebrated 70 years of service with this institution—a truly remarkable achievement.

Today, at the age of 91, Cliff Hagedorn continues to work tirelessly in support of his country and his local community. Serving as Adjutant of his local VFW post, Mr. Hagedorn engages in outreach to the local community, visiting schools and teaching young people about the value of knowing their civics and their nation's history.

Cliff Hagedorn has devoted his life to public service, and we are all better off as a result. On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to extend our sincere thanks for all he has done for our country, and a heartfelt congratulations for

seventy years of service to his local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES KAUFMAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of James Kaufman, who passed away on October 31, 2013 at the age of 71. As one of the founders of American Ambulance, Jim was a true supporter and advocate for our Central Valley. His kind heart and generosity will be greatly missed.

Jim was born and raised in Fresno, California. After graduating from Roosevelt High School, he joined the United States Coast Guard Reserves. He also worked part time at Jones Ambulance and attended Fresno City College. While Jim was working at Jones Ambulance, he met his wife, Joyce, and a year later they married in Carmel, California. Jim and Joyce raised one son together, Stan.

One of Jim's greatest role models was his father, Martin. Martin was a teacher and coach, and Jim saw himself following in his father's footsteps. However, when Jim completed his 16 years of service in the Coast Guard, he decided to run his own ambulance business. In 1975, Jim and three other individuals founded American Ambulance. Jim and his partner, Larry Ward, remained as the owners of the company for almost four decades as American Ambulance grew into a successful business with approximately 600 employees.

Jim's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish a new business, KY Farming, with his good friend, Tony Yasuda. They grew cherries and blueberries, and they also managed a packing house, KY Packing. Jim's businesses brought him great joy. He cherished his employees and always did what he could to help, whether it was through financial support, guidance, or simply heartfelt encouragement.

Aside from his work, Jim loved the Dallas Cowboys. He also enjoyed tennis, golf, and dove hunting. Spending time with family was most important to Jim. He will be greatly missed by Joyce, Stan, his daughter-in-law, Stephanie, and his grandchildren; Abel, Lilly, Evan, and Faith.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of James Kaufman. His presence will be missed, but his legacy will surely live on in the Central Valley.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE NUTLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nutley Public Library, located in Essex County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary.

The Nutley Public Library has a strong history, as its building and collection have continued to grow since its opening in August, 1914.

The origins of the Nutley Public Library begin in 1896, when a private library held the starting 3,000 book collection. The intention of the private library was to hold the books until the Township of Nutley could find a location for a library. However, it was not until 1914, when the town was provided an Andrew Carnegie grant that the new public library, designed by Armstrong and DeGelleke, was built, and the collection was moved to its current home.

In January 1942, the library expanded the original building to accommodate its ever-growing collection. Through the funding of a Federal Works Project Administration Grant and local funds, the library added three stories, designed by Behee and Kramer.

On August 25, 1980, the second floor ceiling collapsed. The fall of the 65 by 40 foot ceiling section knocked over many bookcases, and caused severe damage. Thankfully, the library was closed at the time of the collapse. The first floor was able to remain open through the duration of the repairs, with the librarians retrieving books from the upstairs rooms when requested.

In October 1990, an addition and renovation completed the library's current facility. Designed by James Goldstein and Associates, a 20,000 square feet addition was added on, with its appearance preserving the essence of the original and historic Carnegie structure. The library used its own reserve funds, and turned to the community, to help pay for the renovation. The library received its financial help through the Friends of the Nutley Public Library, Township bonds, and a New Jersey State Library Construction Grant.

The Nutley Public Library became the 70th member of the Bergen County Cooperative Library System in 1996. This system allows the library to be fully computerized and view the holdings of all the BCCLS libraries, and is accessible 24 hours a day.

Today, the Library maintains a collection of approximately 90,000 books. The collection includes reference books, adult books, young adult books, and approximately 25,000 children's books. The Library is able to provide large print books, magazines, videos, music, downloadable eBooks, and audio books. It is currently governed by a Board of Trustees and two ex-officio members. The Board members are chosen by the Mayor and serve five year terms. The two ex-officio members include the Mayor and the Superintendent of Schools, or their delegates. The library is currently funded by the New Jersey Per Capita State Aid, donations, and the Township. Eighty percent of interest from these funds is used for the purchase of books and other material. The library is proud to celebrate its history and look forward to its continuous growth in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Nutley Public Library and thanking the Friends of the Nutley Public Library as it celebrate its Centennial Anniversary.

HONORING THE ARMITAGE FAMILY

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the Armitage family for the leadership values

they have demonstrated and passed onto their children. They have built a model for leading in the community that will be continued by their adult children to provide the same leadership as their parents.

Dr. James and Nancy Armitage are being honored for not only their leadership to the Omaha community, but also their contributions to research and training in the medical profession.

Dr. Armitage is internationally renowned for his expertise in bone marrow transplantation. He is also a leading expert in the management of lymphoma worldwide. He is currently the Joe Shapiro Professor of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha; is active on several committees and his expertise is sought worldwide. James has also served on several community boards and has received professional honors from national and international organizations that are too numerous to list.

Nancy began her career practicing psychiatric and intensive care nursing before the needs of her family led her to leave the field. Currently, Nancy is extremely involved in volunteer leadership positions with local boards, schools, hospitals, nonprofits, and her church. To name a few, Nancy has served on the Munroe-Meyer Institute Guild, Samaritan Counseling Center of the Midlands Board and the executive boards for the Faculty Women's Club and the University Hospital Auxiliary. Her many years of volunteer work at UNMC Hospital has led to her being named a co-chair of the Faculty Women's Club scholarship committee, raising funds for UNMC students. Nancy and James also serve as trustees of the Nature Conservancy of Nebraska.

James and Nancy have four adult children: Amy, Greg, Anne, and Joel. Amy, a substitute teacher at Mary Our Queen School and Parish, lives in Elkhorn with her husband Jeff. Greg works as a CPA with FBL Financial Group, Inc and lives in Des Moines with his wife Cheryl. Anne, an attorney and stay-at-home mother, lives in Omaha with her husband Stephen. She also serves as an officer on the Girls Inc. Girl Friend board. Joel practices internal medicine and lives with his wife Anja in Omaha. Nancy and James have been blessed with ten grandchildren.

It's an honor to recognize their commitment to make the metro area a better place.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the passage of the 1968 National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, signed into law 45 years ago by President Lyndon Johnson. This landmark legislation has resulted in the protection of more than 100 rivers, including Minnesota's Saint Croix River. Across the country, these beautiful riverways cross many political boundaries and state borders, uniting Americans in appreciation of our natural heritage.

As a Senator, Minnesota's own Walter Mondale joined Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson to sponsor the Act, and include the Saint Croix

River as one of the eight original rivers designated as a Wild and Scenic Riverway. Creation of the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway recognized the largest scenic riverway east of the Mississippi River and helped protect its nationally renowned fishery.

Once the epicenter of the American logging industry and a busy corridor of commerce, the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway is now a testament to the rugged beauty that was home to Native Americans for millennia, and that greeted early European visitors who followed them. Under the wise stewardship of the National Park Service in partnership with more than 1,000 private land owners, 252 miles of the Saint Croix River watershed from the Namekagon in Wisconsin, its largest tributary, to the Mississippi confluence are protected from logging, invasive development and industry. Tens of thousands of visitors have benefited from the river's national protection and enjoy its natural beauty; future generations will be able to appreciate its natural splendor.

Today, 45 years after passage of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the legacy forged by Senators Mondale and Nelson has grown from the original eight rivers to 150 Wild and Scenic Rivers. This designation protects these rivers and the outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act has safeguarded the special character of our most precious rivers and helped lead to further protection of our valuable natural resources, including passage of the Clean Water Act of 1973.

Despite the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, these national treasures are under constant threat from modern development and misuse. In Congress, it is my priority to protect and strengthen our Wild and Scenic Rivers, including the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway, for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 45th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it is my pleasure to commend all who have made the Act a success, including Vice President Mondale, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson, National Park Service staff, private land owners, and countless volunteers who are dedicated to keeping these beautiful riverways wild and scenic.

HONORING THE PUERTO RICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce.

Over the past twenty years, the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of South Florida has been an important partner for promoting business, driving job creation, and supporting economic development in South Florida. Through partnerships with the Miami-Dade County Office of Public Housing and Community Development, the members of the Chamber help create much needed jobs and advance community development.

This organization strives to support entrepreneurship and innovation for Puerto Ricans

and Hispanics in both South Florida and Puerto Rico. As our economy in South Florida continues to recover from the recession, the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce serves as a leader in strengthening the economic foundation of our communities.

I hope you will join me in commending the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of South Florida on twenty years of outstanding advocacy and service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 602, I was not present for the vote due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FACETS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of FACETS, a Northern Virginia nonprofit that helps individuals and families overcome the challenges of poverty.

Since 1988, through its collaboration with more than 100 faith communities, local businesses, fellow nonprofits, and government agencies, FACETS has improved the lives of thousands of families and individuals by helping them obtain emergency shelter, food, and medical care; helping them gain safe, sustainable and permanent housing; and working with them to end the cycle of poverty through educational, life skills and career counseling programs. This wrap-around approach not only addresses the immediate needs of those in crisis, it also provides the support and services necessary to develop long-range solutions that allow each person to become self-sufficient and live with dignity.

During my tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I was pleased to partner with FACETS in launching the Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program, which will be starting up again soon. Under this program, churches have opened their doors to provide our most vulnerable neighbors with a warm and safe place to stay during winter nights. Last year FACETS served 244 guests in this program, and since it began no unsheltered individuals have died due to hypothermia. In 2008, when I was Chairman of the County Board, I worked with FACETS founder Linda Wimpey and other community partners to initiate the 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Thanks to the success of that program we have made significant strides reducing the rate of homelessness by one-fourth.

FACETS also helps people develop the skills necessary to create better lives for themselves and their families by operating Education and Community Development programs

in community centers located in affordable housing communities throughout Fairfax County. Programs for youth focus on academics, self-esteem, substance abuse prevention, healthy relationships and college or career planning. Approximately 450 youth participate in these programs. Nearly 90 percent of children who received homework and tutoring help improved their GPAs or overall academic performance. Last summer, FACETS served 1250 lunches, sent 7 children to camp, and hosted additional activities designed to keep children and teens safe.

Programs for adults include computer and financial literacy, career development and ESL. Residents can participate in individualized case management, focusing on eviction prevention and emergency food and financial assistance to keep them stable and in their homes. In FY12, nearly 60 adults participated in FACETS' community programs. Of those who received case management, 40 percent became actively involved with life skills classes and 60 percent gained employment assistance, including résumé development and increasing earning power.

FACETS has earned well-deserved recognition for these efforts. The Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce honored FACETS as its 2013 Large Nonprofit of the Year. In June 2013, the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers recognized the FACETS' Education and Community Development Program as the Best Community Life Program in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Last year,

FACETS earned a Team Excellence Award: Leadership Role in the Fairfax County Family Shelter In-take Redesign.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing FACETS for its 25 years of service to our community and in extending our sincere appreciation to the dedicated staff and volunteers for their commitment to ending poverty in Fairfax County as well as to the individual, corporate, non-profit, and government agency sponsors for supporting the critical work of this organization.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER TRUST FUND ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more essential to quality of life, to the health of our families and of our communities than water. Water, at its most basic level, is life. Safe drinking water and basic sanitation make the difference between health and sickness, between a family thriving or struggling just to exist.

Water quality and quantity are serious issues in communities across the country, especially now, when changing weather patterns, extreme drought, continued growth combine to put an even greater demand on our aging, inadequate infrastructure. To ease these pressures, I am introducing the Water Trust Fund Act, which would establish a trust fund to help local communities meet their water infrastructure needs.

Over a thousand communities across the country are struggling with combined sewer

overflows as well as inadequate and aging sewer pipes. Small communities in particular, which already face huge questions of water supply and quality, have few resources with which to pay the bills and are seeing sky-high monthly costs for consumers.

The Water Trust Fund Act creates a deficit-neutral, consistent, and firewalled trust fund to help states replace, repair, and rehabilitate critical wastewater treatment facilities. It will be financed by voluntary fees from companies that participate, in exchange for the use of advertising materials indicating their support for America's water systems.

We face unprecedented challenges to our water infrastructure. More and more products are designed to be flushed down toilets and drains, placing them in systems that are already stressed. Pharmaceutical residues are showing up in treated wastewater and because they are difficult to treat, I'm afraid we are slowly medicating vast numbers of Americans against their will. Aging water systems—some still made out of brick or wood, some dating from the century before last—mean that America also faces old-fashioned system reliability issues. Unpredictable weather means that water systems are dealing more frequently with sewage overflow, flooding, and overwhelmed systems. Reports indicate that each year an average of six billion gallons of drinking water leaks from these inadequate and ancient pipes. Six billion gallons is enough to fill 6,000 Olympic sized swimming pools—if lined up, these pools would stretch from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh, PA.

These aging and outdated systems are not just a local problem, relevant only to a single neighborhood, city, county, or even state. Water does not obey county boundaries or even state lines, and it is a resource on which we all rely. The federal government should help fill the funding gaps that local communities and states cannot. The opportunity is now: There is significant state and local investment, interest rates are low, and the Water Trust Fund will help leverage billions of additional dollars to repair our aging infrastructure.

The American public is already paying a disproportionate share of the costs of water infrastructure. Residential households have the least capacity to absorb additional costs during these difficult times, and they already face wildly escalating costs to deal with problems that they did not create. The voracious water demands of industry far outstrip household needs. Clean water is absolutely essential for these industries and the rest of the business community to function. Water infrastructure upgrades will provide the business community far more in benefits than it would cost, and it could be used to leverage a broader range of investments.

This bill will help communities deal with their water infrastructure needs in a stable, proactive way, and will provide significant benefits for those who rely on our water system, the local government officials charged with making the system work, and the industries who rely on a clean, consistent source of water for their products.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE F. ALVERNAZ

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Joe F. Alvernaz. His character exemplified that of a role model and true community leader—he placed others ahead of himself, made family his first priority, and possessed a strong work ethic.

Joe began his life of service at an early age. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and it was there that he received the nickname "Sweet Potato Joe" from his fellow marine and close friend, actor Brian Keith. It was while Joe was in boot camp, that he would come to marry the love of his life: Florence Cardoza of Merced in 1942. As the war went on, he served our country proudly during a period of history that seemed as if it would never pass; a period that forever changed our nation and the world.

After the war ended, Joe became as busy as ever. He came back to California to once again farm sweet potatoes. He later served as President of the California Sweet Potato Council, and U.S. Sweet Potato Council, where he was a Director for over 20 years. To say that Joe was busy is an understatement; he also served as President of the Merced County Farm Bureau and was on the Board of Directors of the Nisei Farmers League.

Joe's involvement in the community could not be described in one word or even in one sentence. From 1946 to 1996, "Sweet Potato Joe" announced all the Livingston High School football games, parades, and even radio programs. This is where Joe earned another name for himself: "The Voice of Livingston." However, his talents did not end there; Joe's acting skills also benefited the Livingston Little Theater group, where he starred in several productions, most notably as Elwood P. Dowd in "Harvey." Adding to his list of accomplishments, Joe also organized the first kid's hardball team in Merced County in the early 50's. Joe was particularly drawn to baseball, and served as coach, sponsor, announcer, and booster for over fifty years. Later, he would become the third Area Commissioner of Baseball. From this, he achieved perhaps his greatest accomplishment; having a local baseball field be renamed the "Joe F. Alvernaz Baseball Field."

Joe was predeceased by his parents, Joe and Mabel Alvernaz, brothers, Arthur and John Alvernaz, and sister, Mary Geyer. He was also predeceased by his oldest son, Joey Alvernaz, in 1980 and by his wife of 64 years, Florence, in 2007. Although Joe has passed on from this life, Heaven is a little bit brighter today because he has joined Florence, the true love of his life. He is survived by 5 children, 17 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to the life of a truly amazing father, coach, neighbor, and everyone's friend, Joe F. Alvernaz. His service to his country, community, and to his family will be painfully missed, yet celebrated, honored and never forgotten.

HONORING TEELA MICKLES

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I want to honor Teela Mickles for being an advocate for the youth of Omaha. She is an inspiration for change by creating opportunities for young people to remain active and accountable members of the community.

Teela's interest in helping people return to a successful life after incarceration comes from her own experiences. Teela was involved in a marriage where domestic abuse was prevalent and was finally able to break away after fourteen years. She was able to start a new life for herself and her five children. Her faith in God and desire to do what was right convinced her that she could help others to restore their lives as well.

Teela founded an organization called Compassion in Action in 1994 to provide a holistic approach to family restoration and community re-establishment for incarcerated individuals and their families. The program is designed to address the specific needs of individuals coming out of incarceration by offering them pre-release and re-entry services, advocacy and mentoring services, and transitional and independent living preparation for youth.

Currently, Teela is leading Compassion in Action in a \$300,000 fundraising campaign to renovate the former Wesley House building in North Omaha and begin operations there. She is especially enthusiastic about the R.A.W. D.A.W.G.S. Youth Corps Gang Prevention Program clubhouse that will be in the lower level of the building working to replace the desire for gang membership. Teela is working around the clock to recruit a community-wide network of concerned families and community leaders who believe in the importance of investing in our children, rather than building more prisons.

Teela believes that the main key to success is prevention. She is convinced that the best way to prepare someone for the outside world after their release is to prepare them prior to their release.

It's my privilege to recognize Teela's commitment to building up our community and her efforts to bring it together.

IN HONOR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLEVELAND'S RIDNA SHKOLA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Ukrainians have been coming to the United States since the Industrial Revolution when immigrants came to cities like Cleveland for jobs. Here they established communities with their own churches, businesses and social clubs. Many also felt the need to perpetuate the language and culture of their ancestral home. And so, starting in the first decade of the 20th Century, the first Ukrainian Heritage Schools were born.

The current Heritage School, "Ridna Shkola," whose 60th anniversary we celebrate

this year, was founded in 1953 by immigrants who found refuge in America after they had been driven from their homeland by the devastation of the Second World War and the repressive policies of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. Because they had been active in cultural institutions in their Homeland, the Soviets who conquered Western Ukraine in 1939 targeted them for execution or deportation to Siberian labor camps. Also targeted were the "Ostarbeiters," Ukrainians forced to work as slaves in the Nazi economy. Stalin saw them as tainted by Western influences and after the war assigned them to a similar fate.

Those who could fled—first to the Displaced Persons Camps of post-war Austria and Germany and ultimately to a new life in Cleveland and other cities in the U.S. and Canada. The bitter circumstances of their immigration reinforced the refugees' determination to perpetuate their identity and culture.

There is no exact English correlative for the term "Ridna Shkola." Roughly it means, "Our own native school" and already in 1950, informal classes began at Cleveland's Ukrainian National Home in Tremont.

In the fall of 1953, educators and leaders formally established the "Ridna Shkola" Association led by Ivan Fur, a grocer whose real vocation was the Ukrainian community. In January 1954, "Ridna Shkola" was incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of Ohio and joined the Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) which to this day coordinates a nationwide network of Ukrainian Heritage Schools. The first director of Cleveland's "Ridna Shkola" was the distinguished scholar, Volodymyr Radzykevych, author of the three-volume "History of Ukrainian Literature" and several children's books. For many years, Professor Radzykevych was the librarian at the Ukrainian section of the Jefferson Branch of the Cleveland Public Library.

Once it was established, "Ridna Shkola" met every Saturday during the school year at Tremont Elementary School before moving to Merrick House a few blocks away. Enrollment grew from 95 students in 1954 to 307 in 1963. That's when the school moved to Parma, following the demographic trends of the Ukrainian-American community to the suburbs. Since then, several thousand Ukrainian-American students have attended "Ridna Shkola" with more than a thousand completing the rigorous "Matura" which tests students' knowledge of Ukrainian language, history, literature, geography and culture.

From the very beginning "Ridna Shkola" was distinguished by a highly-qualified faculty: Hryhoriy Golembiowsky, Mykhaylyna Stavnycha, Olena and Marian Dub, Mykhailo Zhdan, Yaroslava Pichurko, Myroslava Mychkovska, to name a few. There have been scores of others over the past 60 years—all deserve mention, but they are too many to list. Directors (principals) included Vasyl Ivanchuk, Stepan Wolanyk, Viroslav Kost, Petro Twardowsky and George Jaskiw. Today, the majority of teachers and students at Ridna Shkola are from the most recent Fourth Wave of immigrants to the U.S.

Critical to its operation are the administrators, people who make sure children have books, collect tuition, pay faculty and resolve a thousand details. For many years, Lida Parc in Cleveland fulfilled this role, insuring a smooth operation. The school also depends

on a solid corps of volunteers and, of course, parents who wake their children every Saturday morning and drive them to school.

The school is supported by the Ridna Shkola Society, a group of parents and other supporters who raise money, take care of administrative tasks and organize events associated with the school year—weekly classes, graduation exercises, annual celebrations. Today, Chrystine Klek heads the Society, following such dedicated leaders as Kost Melnyk, Vasyl Ilchysyn, Evhen Nebesh, Evhen Palka, Bohdan Milan, Luba Mudryi and George Jaskiw.

It is impossible to assess the importance of Ridna Shkola. Many a college application and professional resume lists Ridna Shkola and the "Matura." Untold numbers of Ridna Shkola graduates have gone on to careers in journalism, politics, government, medicine, law, business, media, diplomacy, etc. where they applied their knowledge of Ukrainian, as well as the lessons and skills they acquired in "Ridna Shkola" something their parents forced on them and they unwillingly accepted, only to later acknowledge how beneficial it all was. And now a quarter century after Ukraine's independence, it's clear the huge difference Ridna Shkola made not only in the lives of its graduates, in the Ukrainian-American community but also the positive impact on the country their parents and grandparents left under such bitter circumstances.

Best wishes to Ridna Shkola on its 60th Anniversary and all the best in the years to come!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 603, I was not present for the vote due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 583, I was unable to make it to the floor in time for this vote due to the hearing in the subcommittee on Reform, Commercial & Antitrust Law running over. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FARMINGTON MINE DISASTER

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 45th anniversary of the explosion at Consolidation Coal's No. 9 Mine in Farmington, WV. We remember the 78 miners who

lost their lives in what is known as the Farmington Mine Disaster.

On the morning of November 20, 1968 multiple explosions rocked the small town of Farmington and the surrounding area. The blasts were felt as far as 12 miles away. Ninety-nine men went down in the mine that day, and only 21 made it out alive.

The sacrifice of these miners and their families was not in vain. The disaster led to historic safety changes for the mining industry. The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 was signed into law as a result and generations of coal miners have benefited from the improvements in working conditions.

Coal and coal mining is in West Virginia's lifeblood. Tens of thousands of West Virginians rely on coal to make their livelihood. Even today, mining coal is a difficult and often dangerous job. We must never forget the important contribution these men and women make to America.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 1st Congressional District of West Virginia and the families of these 78 miners, I remember the victims of this tragedy and honor the sacrifice they made.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 604, I was not present for the vote due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING PRESIDENT JAAN MANUEL SANTOS CALDERÓN OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos for his bold leadership and commitment to public service.

President Santos began his distinguished career in public service when he served as the first-ever Minister of Foreign Trade. In this capacity, President Santos tirelessly sought to bring a higher quality of life to the people of Colombia by expanding trade and promoting economic prosperity. As the Minister of Foreign Trade, President Santos's strong leadership allowed him to successfully establish Colombia as a rising international economic force.

After founding the Social Party of National Unity, which is now Colombia's largest political party, President Santos served as the Minister of Defense. Thanks to his steadfast leadership and commitment, President Santos helped weaken dangerous guerrilla groups like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

President Santos's achievements as a national leader are undoubtedly worthy of our admiration. I commend him for an impressive career and applaud his lifelong dedication to his country.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2013 Fairfax County Park Service Awards. These awards, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Foundation, recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to our environment and public park system.

Fairfax County is regarded as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and our nationally-recognized park system has played a key role in that distinction. Each year thousands of volunteers donate their talents and time to protect our natural and cultural resources and enhance educational and recreational services.

The Fairfax County Park Service Awards are presented in several categories: the Elly Doyle Park Service Awards which were established in 1988 and named in honor of Ellamae Doyle in recognition of her many years of outstanding service as a member and chairman of the Park Authority Board, the Eakin Philanthropy Award named in honor of the Eakin family who donated the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority more than 50 years ago, the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Resource Award named in honor of the late, longtime historian, author, and chairman of the Sully Foundation, and the Outstanding Volunteer Awards. I am honored to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the following recipients of the 2013 Service Awards:

Eakin Philanthropy Award Recipients:

ExxonMobil for its generous support of the Summer Entertainment Series, its investment in an outdoor classroom at Huntley Meadows Park, and for support of the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience.

Jon and Ruth Ruskin who, through the RZ Foundation, have made significant financial contributions that have supported Fairfax County Parks programs and initiatives including Bright Futures RecPAC scholarships, Arts in the Park performances, and funding for open space land acquisition.

The Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award:

The Sully Foundation Ltd., which has contributed nearly half a million dollars in support of special projects at Sully Historic Site since 1970.

Elly Doyle Park Service Award Recipients:

Howard Albers for his work as a volunteer consultant to identify and secure new sources of funding for park programs and facilities.

Jim Hickey for more than 17 years of volunteer service to Lake Accotink Park and for establishing the Friends of Lake Accotink, for which he serves as president.

Sarah Kirk for her efforts as founder and president of Turner Farm Events to ensure that equestrian programs at The Turner Farm in Great Falls remain free to the public.

Elly Doyle Special Recognition Awards:

Casto DeBiasi, Lassine Doumbia, The Great Falls Trail Blazers, The Friends of Green Spring Gardens Board of Directors, Lynn Mulvey-McFerron, and Melina Tye.

2013 Outstanding Volunteers:

Fran Anderson, William A. "Bill" Bozo, Lisi Bradshaw, Joan Carson, Sue Erbele, Clint Fields, Natalie Gilbert, Mostafa Kamvar, Lauren Kinne, Barbara Leven, Judy Nitsche, Martha Orling, Jaque Ristau, Cathy Ruiz, Marilyn Schroeder, Jim and Jo Anne Stapleton, John Tucker, Karen Waltman, and the Ziegler Family.

2013 Student Honorees:

Monica Banghart and Rohil Bhinge.

Mister Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking these honorees for their commitment to our open spaces and public parks. Fairfax County is able to enjoy a high quality of life because of the efforts of these individuals and they are deserving of our praise and appreciation.

THE 210TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEESBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company, which celebrated its 210th anniversary on November 15.

The fire company is an important part of the history of the Town of Leesburg. It began in 1803 when Leesburg residents formed a "bucket brigade." Each male member of the household kept buckets made of leather on the floor of their homes. Later in the 1800s, the bucket brigade reorganized into the Leesburg Fire Company, and by the 1820s the company had acquired a new hand-pumped fire engine. In the 20th century, the company advanced from the use of hand-pulled engines and hose carts to more modern fire engines. Further expansion happened in the 1920s with the construction of a new fire station and the purchase of several new fire trucks.

Over the past 210 years, the fire company has grown and changed significantly while safeguarding the Leesburg community. In 1928, the company responded to 21 calls, and by the 1970s, demand for the company's services had grown to an average of 300 calls a year. The company then hired its first fire marshal to keep up with demand. Today, the volunteers and career firefighters who make up what is now called the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company use advance training and the highest-quality equipment to provide fire prevention, emergency rescue services and fire safety education. In 2012, the fire company responded to more than 1,723 calls, underscoring the organization's invaluable contributions to the community.

A banquet in honor of the 210th anniversary was held on November 16, which focused on the book, *The Early History of the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company 1803–1925*. The book was researched and written by 11-year member James R. Fazekas and is filled with newspaper articles as well as maps, photos, drawings and reproductions of archived documents commemorating the fire company's history and accomplishments. Mayor Kristen Umstattd also presented the Town of Leesburg's annual donation of \$400,000 to the fire company—a substantial increase from the town's allocation of \$53.69 in 1891.

The success of the fire company is due in part to the leadership of President Richard Wolfe, who has been with the company for nine years. I would also like to recognize Rick Etter, a 29-year member who served as chair of the anniversary committee, and J.B. Anderson, a 43-year member. Their and exceptional service is appreciated.

I commend all the members of Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company for their bravery, dedication and willingness to put their lives on the line to protect our community. I wish them all the best as they celebrate this wonderful milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HARRIET THOMSEN

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harriet Thomsen from Washington State, who will be recognized as an extraordinary volunteer by Friend to Friend America at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Day on November 23, 2013.

Harriet has been a volunteer and supporter of Friend to Friend since it was founded in 1974. The visitation program connects volunteers to elderly or disabled persons living in nursing homes, increasing the quality of their lives and establishing long-time friendships. Harriet has since been a strong advocate for the elderly community and has worked vigorously to maintain Friend to Friend's mission.

Harriet's passion for volunteerism stem from her first visit to a nursing home in her earlier years. She noticed that most homes provided dark activity rooms and were lacking sanitary equipment. Harriet immediately took charge and published an article in her local newspaper asking for donations like paint, chairs and lamps to improve assisted living facilities. She also mobilized women at her church, addressing the concerns she had about the unfortunate conditions some elderly must endure when living in a nursing home. She became invested and took it upon herself to positively change the living situation of seniors.

Although Harriet is highly praised for her selflessness and dedication at Friend to Friend, she also volunteers at the Children's Hospital Boutique in Kent, Washington and regularly cooks dinners for the homeless at Grace Lutheran Church. She is currently a retiree that spends more than 40 hours a week assisting others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Harriet Thomsen. Harriet is a true inspiration and an excellent example of a community leader. Her service to Washington State will be appreciated by many for years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD HONORING JOSEPH A. GATTO

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Joseph An-

thony Gatto, a tireless educator and community artist who passed away, at the age of 78.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado on December 22, 1943, Joseph soon came to call California his home as World War II provided a large migration of workers to settle in the West Coast. Officially settling in East Hollywood, Joseph graduated from Fairfax High School where he excelled both academically and athletically. After turning 18 years of age, Joseph enlisted in the United States Army where he was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington. Upon completion of his service to the military, Joseph returned to Los Angeles and graduated from California State University, Los Angeles and continued his education earning a Master's from Cal State LA and another Master's from Pepperdine University becoming the first in his family to graduate from college.

During his career he worked multiple jobs tirelessly as he was not only an educator in high schools during the day, having never missed a day of work during his 47 years, he also was a University professor on the weekends at Cal State LA and California State University Northridge. All a while serving as an assistant to his brother a concession manager at Dodger Stadium. In 1968, Joseph met his wife with whom he had three wonderful children; Nicole, Michael—a California Assemblyman, and my friend, Marianna, each of whom went on to do great things in their own right.

Joseph was awarded the "Bravo Award" as California Arts Teacher of the Year, in 1986. He was also honored consecutively at the White House by former President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and again in 1989 by former President George H.W. Bush. Following his success, he was honored yet again in 1990 as the California and Pacific Region Art Educator of the year. Joseph wrote many books throughout his life, many being used as classroom textbooks from Canada to Texas.

He will be remembered as a father, friend, and as an outstanding educator in his community. He will be missed by many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the House to join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the memory of Joseph Anthony Gatto.

HONORING THE HETTINGER FAMILY

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Hettinger family for their commitment to family solidarity. It is evident by their love and support shared between parents and children that this family deserves to be recognized for its commitment to one another.

Robert and Thesia Hettinger have been blessed with a large family, twelve children in all. The family wasn't always that large; however, after Robert's sister passed in 2006, the Hettinger family grew by seven. With ten children at home, Robert's sister's husband became overwhelmed when they learned of her cancer and Robert and Thesia were eager to help.

Robert works as a district network specialist for the Millard Public Schools. Thesia is currently a stay-at-home mother and certainly

keeps very busy with twelve children at home in Papillion. During the final months of her life, Robert and his sister's relationship evolved as they struggled to cope with her disease and living arrangements for all of the children. Soon after his sister passed, Robert and Thesia, along with their five children, made the decision to bring six of their nieces and nephews into their family. The four remaining children stayed with their father; however, they continue to play a significant role in the Hettinger children's lives.

All in all, the adoption process took three years and was finalized in 2009. Recently, the Hettinger's added another nephew to their family, bringing the grand total to twelve children. Miraculously, all of the children are very loving, respectful, and protective of one another and all share a genuine concern for helping others.

The Hettinger reserves Monday nights for family time. During this time they will all get together, which is extremely difficult to do with twelve children between ages seven and seventeen, to focus on their spiritual lives.

Robert and Thesia believe that to be good parents they must teach and lead by example. It is folks like Robert and Thesia who embody the spirit of strong communities. It is an honor to recognize them today.

"FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS DAY": IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of President John F. Kennedy. On the fiftieth anniversary of his tragic passing, it is important to remember all of the ideals that President Kennedy championed and the many Americans that have dedicated their lives to public service based on his example. In honor of President Kennedy, I submit this poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS DAY

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Fifty years ago this day . . .
As a Nation cried and prayed . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
As up to Heaven,
an American Hero made his way . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
as our Nation's hearts gave way!
Fifty years ago this day . . .
As Camelot,
came to an end that day!
As a Nation's great hopes were so torn away!
As the tears so ran down her face . . .
Fifty years ago today!
For we will long remember,
where we were so then there . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
When,
we lost our most beloved JFK . . .
As we all so knelt and prayed!
As up towards Heaven a new Angel made his
way . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
So young and so bright,
who so fought to fight . . .
To Save The World!
In World War II,
aboard P.T. 109 all in his most heroic hue
. . .

All in his "Profiles in Courage" as he stood true!

JFK,
a better world so made!
With his "Profiles in Courage" leading the way!

"Let Us All Go Forth" as you would say!
To walk upon the moon,
a dream all in your bold heart had grown!
And oh that hair!
Causing all to stop and stare!
Touching and inspiring hearts everywhere!
And oh that voice,
as so surely you were America's choice!
When leaders lead,
up to new heights our hearts so hoist!
And oh those Brothers Four,
such a work of art of a family's love adorned!
And a lovely wife Jackie . . .
Who all in those tragic days,
out of all that ashes so led the way!
As to her children the hope and strength,
so gave!

As all of their she so eased!
Fifty years ago this day!
Jon Jon . . . and Caroline,
oh how heavy our hearts so weighted!
Fifty years ago this day!
As we lost our most beloved JFK!
And now as we so contemplate,
what we so lost on that day!
As a hole in America's heart was so made!
Fifty years ago this day!
As we all had to so Go Forth!
All out on our course!
To achieve so what up ahead so awaits!
All in our hopes and dreams,
to so sow in our hearts these seeds!
As fifty some years ago!
As a Nation so awoke,
to the words he so spoke . . .
Almost like a prayer,
on an Inauguration spoken there!
"Ask not what your country can do for you?"

"But, what you can do for your country!"
All in what JFK was invoking!
To such new heights,
where only dreams are made by those who burn bright!
As the torch has been passed . . .
"Let Us Go Forth!"
Like that great Irish poet named John,
who inspired us to dream dreams far beyond!
Dearest Jack!
Dearest John!
JFK!

You are gone,
but not forgotten . . .
As your rising tide,
made all boats rise!
Casting your brief light!
As life a Star you rose so high,
and you were gone as we all cried!
Fifty years ago this day!
To Reach For the Stars,
and shoot for the Moon to go far!
As we will remember that smile,
and those eyes . . .
and that hair and his Irish charm as comprised!

As up in Heaven now,
a pickup football game rages on up in the skies!

And then a shot rang out . . .
on that dark day when the music died!
As we will never know what could have been?
But we knew what was so then!
And that we have all so been cheated by this dark sin!

But Jack,
all of that light you so left behind!
Still, beckons to us all so all in time . . .
To Go Forth!
To Dream Dreams all out on our course!
All in the service to Mankind,
we feel your force!
Yes, Dearest Jack . . .

My Dearest John . . .
you have left,
but you are not gone!
As your fine life,
among this world lives on!
Now,
"Let Us Go Forth" . . .
And by your Profiles in Courage,
let all our hearts be warned!
As we remember,
what took place fifty years ago this day . . .
As together let us pray.

CONGRATULATING THE IMAGE BAND

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Image Band of the Washington, DC Metro Area on their celebration of their 35th anniversary this week. The Image Band is not just any other Caribbean band, they are a band with roots in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, who for the past 35 years have kept the sounds of home alive and vibrant for Virgin Islanders and Caribbean people who have migrated here and for people like me who work here and sometimes need to enjoy the cultural flavor of home.

Mr. Speaker, the Image Band returns to the islands regularly to perform there, most notably New Year's Eve on St. Croix and in other East Coast cities, Canada, and the Caribbean, where the Virgin Islands-Caribbean diaspora resides to entertain and excite and to provoke cultural memory. They have fulfilled their founding mission to "reproduce, propagate, and improve the dynamism of the Caribbean musical form." The Image Band was the first group to win the Best Musical Band Award presented by the DC Carnival and they have been crowned Brass-O-Rama champions at the Trinidad and Tobago Days in the Park in Baltimore. The Washington Post has featured their involvement with the Caribbean Fest Live at the Carter Baron Amphitheatre.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands and the entire Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora, I want to say thank you to the Image Band, led by Sarge for their many contributions to the culture of the Caribbean and for many memorable, enjoyable, moments that they have provided for so many of us.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LORD'S PLACE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate The Lord's Place as they celebrate their 30th anniversary. Over the years, I have come to work very closely with this wonderful non-profit organization and have seen first-hand the critical work they do to aid the homeless population in South Florida. It is particularly fitting that we mark this anniversary during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week, when,

as a nation, we reflect on the progress we have made in reducing hunger and homelessness, and recommit ourselves to the work that remains to put an end to these tragedies once and for all.

For 30 years, The Lord's Place has been a place of refuge for homeless Floridians in Palm Beach County. The organization is dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness, and provides critical services to the local community such as job training, health and human services, supportive housing, and community engagement.

Additionally, The Lord's Place operates numerous social enterprises and businesses, such as a thrift store, a catering company, and a community garden, which provide real world experience to homeless Floridians attempting to break their own cycle of homelessness. By helping to educate and provide valuable employment opportunities for these men and women, The Lord's Place provides a path that has already allowed hundreds of formerly homeless Floridians to reenter society and lead independent and self-sufficient lives.

In 2012, The Lord's Place provided these support services to hundreds of people in need. More than 400 men, women, and children were offered supportive housing, and remarkably, by the end of the year, 92 percent of these individuals were no longer homeless. Many now lead self-sufficient and independent lives. Furthermore, dozens of formerly homeless men and women better educate themselves with the organization's on-the-job skill training program every year. This has allowed hundreds of formerly homeless Floridians to find work with local employers.

Mr. Speaker, I want offer my most sincere congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to The Lord's Place CEO Diana Stanley, her staff, and volunteers for all that they do each and every single day. I very much look forward to continuing my partnership with them for many more years to come.

REMARKS OF WELCOME TO KING MOHAMMED VI OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in welcoming King Mohammed VI of Morocco to Washington. Support for good US relations with Morocco is a matter that has achieved longstanding, bipartisan support.

On Friday, November 22, 2013, King Mohammed VI will meet with President Obama at the White House for discussions designed to deepen the two countries' long friendship and strategic partnership.

The friendship between our two countries goes back to 1777 when Morocco's Sultan Mohammed III, the current king's namesake, was the first head of state, and Morocco the first country, to recognize the new United States.

Morocco was also the first country to sign a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the United States. Negotiations for this treaty began in 1783 and the draft was signed in

1786. Future Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were the American signatories. The treaty was subsequently presented to the Senate, which ratified it on July 18, 1787, making it the first treaty ever to receive U.S. Senate ratification.

The treaty provided for the United States' diplomatic representation in Morocco and commerce at any Moroccan port on the basis of "most favored nation status." It also established the principle of non-hostility when either country was engaged in a war with any other nation.

President George Washington wrote to Sultan Mohammed III on December 1, 1789: "It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity of assuring your majesty that I shall not cease to promote every measure that may conduce to the friendship and harmony which so happily subsist between your empire and these United States."

U.S. relations with Morocco have strengthened in the years following this historic treaty. During World War I, Morocco was aligned with the Allied forces, and in 1917 and 1918 Moroccan soldiers fought valiantly alongside U.S. Marines at Chateau Thierry, Mont Blanc and Soissons.

During World War II, Moroccan national defense forces aided American and British troops in the region. In January 1943, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Franklin Roosevelt and Free French Commander Charles de Gaulle met for four days in the Anfa neighborhood of Casablanca to develop ongoing strategies against the Axis powers.

In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower sent a letter to Moroccan King Mohammed V to the effect that "my government renews its wishes for the peace and prosperity of Morocco." The King responded by assuring President Eisenhower that Morocco would be a staunch ally against the proliferation of Communism in the region.

Morocco was one of the first nations to express its solidarity with the United States after the September 11, 2001 attacks. The United States subsequently expressed its sympathies and support for Morocco when terrorists conducted major attacks in Morocco.

The United States and Morocco have a Free Trade Agreement and in September 2012, the U.S. and Morocco launched a Strategic Dialogue—the first such U.S. dialogue with a Maghreb nation—to advance common interests on political, economic, security, and educational and cultural affairs.

A bipartisan majority in both the House and Senate have signed letters in support of Morocco's desire to resolve the ongoing conflict in the Western Sahara through negotiations designed to ensure Moroccan sovereignty, while providing the inhabitants with autonomy. In 2009, 244 Members of the House signed such a letter. The following year, 54 Senators signed a letter expressing their support for such a negotiated process designed to end the conflict.

This rich history of friendship and cooperation sets the stage for the visit to the White House by King Mohammed VI. The visit is a result of President Obama's personal invitation to the North African monarch, who will be meeting the President for the first time.

In announcing the visit, the White House issued a statement declaring: "This visit will highlight the long-standing friendship between

the United States and Morocco and strengthen our strategic partnership. The President looks forward to discussing a range of issues of mutual interest with King Mohammed VI, including support for Morocco's democratic and economic reforms. This visit is also an opportunity to increase our cooperation on addressing regional challenges, including countering violent extremism, supporting democratic transitions, and promoting economic development in the Middle East and Africa."

I join with my colleagues in Congress in welcoming the King to Washington in the firm belief that this visit will reinforce the special relationship between our two nations.

A TRIBUTE TO LOTUS RESTAURANT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hong Nguyen, the owner of Lotus Vietnamese restaurant in Vernon, Connecticut. Hong recently announced that Lotus will be closing on December 1st after nearly thirty years of business. The Zagat-rated restaurant has received rave reviews from locals and esteemed food critics alike who return for dishes like the Bombay beef, peppered shrimp, spicy soup, and my favorite, the Saigonese pancake.

Hong Nguyen served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the South Vietnamese Air Force and commanding officer of the 819th combat squadron during the Vietnam War. After the fall of Saigon in 1975, Nguyen and his family fled to the United States. With the assistance of USAF Lt. Colonel Gib Whitman, the Hongts were sponsored for U.S. citizenship and moved to Guilford, Connecticut as the first Vietnamese refugees in the State.

In 1984, Hong Nguyen and his wife, Canh, opened Lotus at its first location on Route 83. In their first years in business they worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Canh did all the cooking and Hong managed the rest of the chores in the restaurant. The grueling work paid off as a growing clientele prompted the Hongts to move into a larger space on the Hartford Turnpike.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the Hong family for their achievements. Their story is a testament to the American dream, and I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this year's recipients of Leadership Fairfax's Northern Virginia Leadership Awards.

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to finding, training and growing leaders in Northern Virginia. Leadership Fairfax seeks to build leaders who raise the tide

not only in their organization or local community but in the whole Northern Virginia region. Graduates from its programs become part of a fast growing network of civic leaders. I've always said, "When you walk into a crowded room it's easy to spot the graduates of Leadership Fairfax—they just stand out!"

Leadership Fairfax alumni and the general public submitted nominations for the 17th annual Northern Virginia Leadership Award, and a panel of community and business leaders made the final selections. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2013 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Bob Chase, president of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, will receive the Regional Leadership Award, which recognizes an individual for advancing regional collaboration and partnership. For two decades, Bob has worked with the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, a coalition of business and civic leaders, to educate the public and advocate for major improvements in regional roads and transit.

Lynn Tadlock, chairman of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and deputy executive director of the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, will be presented with the Trustee Leadership Award, which honors an individual who has demonstrated visionary leadership by embracing new opportunities and pursuing innovative, collaborative approaches. Ms. Tadlock has been associated for 28 years with the Fairfax County Park Authority, and in philanthropy at the Claude Moore Foundation. She has been instrumental in bringing to reality many projects that exist in the county today, including the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, the Cross County Trail, and two county parks for disabled children: Clemmyjontri Park in McLean, and the Special Harbor Spray Park at Lee District.

Pam Michell, executive director of New Hope Housing, will receive the Nonprofit Leadership Award for her 22 years of inspirational leadership at New Hope Housing. Michell has grown New Hope from a small, local agency to a regional agency, with shelters, transitional and supportive housing, and outreach and support services.

The JBG Companies, a real estate investment firm, will be presented the Corporate Leadership Award. JBG develops active, sustainable communities, advances affordable housing and promotes public art. JBG Cares, the companies' volunteer arm, matches volunteers from the company in the areas of affordable housing, education, the environment, hunger and the arts.

Joe Thompson, assistant principal at Annandale High School, will be honored with the Educational Leadership Award for his efforts in launching the first Annandale Pyramid Resource Fair this past August. This event provided school supplies, clothing, hearing and sight testing, haircuts and other goods and services to almost 4,000 families in the Annandale High School Pyramid.

Patricia Stevens, executive director of the Office of Public Private Partnerships, Fairfax County, will receive the Chairman's Award for her enthusiastic and distinguished service on the Board of Directors of Leadership Fairfax as Governance Committee chair, and as a member of the Executive and Membership committees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees and thanking them for their service to Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2013 award recipients and in commending the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department for 73 years of service. I thank the brave volunteers whose dedication to public safety is deserving of our highest praise, and to each of these men and women I say: "Stay safe."

SHARING STORIES IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the following are stories of individuals affected by our Nation's broken immigration system:

Story 1: I came to the U.S. from Nicaragua when I was six years old along with my younger brother. When we first got to the U.S. it was really exciting for us—first of all boarding the plane and just trying to, you know, fulfill our curiosity, and putting our fingers wherever we can, touching everything that was shiny. And we were even more amazed when we got out of the airplane and saw the moving escalators that we'd never seen before. And we actually thought that we were at Disney World at that point (laughter)! It turned out that we weren't in Disney World when we got off the plane, but we did go to Disney World the same week we got here.

So everything was real bright and hopeful when we first got to the U.S. We came on a visa which expired after six months. Mom was with her boyfriend whom she had a daughter with, and so we all lived together for quite a while until her boyfriend started drinking and abusing alcohol. My Mom's boyfriend would abuse her and hit her and pretty much victimize her constantly. There came a point when me and my brother were coming home from school, which was right next door to our house, a trailer, and we saw that as we were walking toward the garage, it just looked like a robbery.

My Mom's boyfriend came out in boxers, and he looked out of it. His eyes were red and he was just saying all these crazy things—"Oh, your Mom this," and "your Mom that," but my Mom wasn't there at the time. My Mom pulled up in her car. She went to our rooms and got as much clothes as she could, and then she put us in her car and put our seatbelts on. As she was putting the keys in the ignition to drive off and flee, he got in front of her car and called the police. When my Mom heard the police sirens, her instinct was to protect us and to keep us together. She was trying to hide so the police wouldn't catch us, and so we were running behind other trailers but eventually we had to stop. And that was when police officers came around and put her in handcuffs, and we were watching this.

And my Mom, like, she just collapsed, pretty much, when all of this was happening, and we saw tears in her eyes.

And so I figured, you know, I know who the victim is here. I expected the police officer to do the right thing and protect my Mom, things like that. But because my Mom was

fearful, and because she had no status, she didn't speak up and all. She was she was crying and bawling inside the car. So she was unfairly detained that day. But moving fast forward, after she got out of jail for that, like the next day, my Mom became a strong and independent woman. She started working harder, and we had our own apartment without her boyfriend. It was just so peaceful when we were together. We'd watch movies together—she loved comedies, so we were always watching comedy movies. We would take turns cooking, sometimes. Everything was really good, to us, after that incident.

But that incident followed her until a day that we were around 10th grade. She was pulled over for driving without a license, and because of those charges they arrested her too. We were at home, right, expecting her to come at 11:00 p.m., which was when her shift ended at the gas station that she worked at. We were watching the clock, and we were like "oh, it's 11, she should be home anytime now," and then it became 11:30 and our eyes were still wide open, until 11:45 and 11:50 when we just fell asleep. We woke up late the next day; it was a school day and she, she wasn't there. That was the craziest experience that we ever had. It was like our mother was abducted by aliens to us and we were just like, "Where is she?" Our aunt gave us a call: "Hey your Mom was arrested for driving without a license." That's when my brother and I immediately were trying to figure out what to do. I was fifteen years old, and trying to figure out if we should pay the next month's rent or sell her car to pay an attorney.

During that period, all the charges were dropped against my Mom, but they found out about her status and they transferred her to ICE and then they deported her.

What bothers me the most, and what angered me the most during this whole ordeal, was that I was never given the opportunity to say bye to her, to look at her, to hug her, or to make her a promise that I'll see her again. We didn't have any form of ID that allowed us to go inside the detention center. And that's really what has angered me the most and why I'm at this site, to make that sure no one has to go through this again.

After my Mom was deported, some of my aunts were financially struggling themselves, but they offered to take us in. Unfortunately, due to economic hardships, they couldn't sustain us. And that's how I ended up in the foster system with some strangers—with a family I didn't know. To me it was just truly nerve-wracking. The first night I couldn't sleep because I didn't know what was going to happen to me, or who these people were that were in the room with me. And the reason I felt like I didn't belong there was because I was never abused or neglected by my Mom. My Mom was an outstanding woman. Most kids go through the foster system for that reason—they were either abused, neglected, or abandoned. That was not the case for me. So I ended up there and now I've aged out of the foster care. I'm 18, I live alone, and it's difficult to come home and not have my family to tell them, "Hey, this is how my day went," or "Hey, I had a bad day, let's talk about it." It's really tough.

Story 2: My dream is to be a citizen of this country because I came here when I was three months old. I am now twenty-one, almost twenty-two, so that is almost my whole life. CIR would change my life and my family's because I have seen my parents suffer and work so hard every day of their life in the sun and see the struggle that they're in and provide a better future for them to see

the happiness in their eyes because they haven't seen their families in 15 years and it hurts me because I know that I haven't seen my mom or my dad it would be so hard. I want to see them happy one day and reunited with their families and for them to come back without the worry of being sent home. I have much hope that this will come very soon.

Story 3: I am originally from Cuba. I came in the sixties and for over 10 years I have been involved with immigration issues. For Cubans, you know, it has always been easy to get the papers in order, but I think the system is very unfair for the other immigrants. Other immigrants come here for various reasons, mostly because of the poverty in their homes and the political situations from their home land. And they are always being created by the government of the United States and the corporations of the United States with the help of the government. Especially comparing the Cubans with the Haitian people and the wet foot, dry foot—to us, we call it, white foot, black foot. The Haitian people need—just as much as the Cubans—to be accepted by this country and be allowed to come. The policy of the United States is wrong, you know, saying that the situation with the Cubans is political as they are suppressed by a communist government but Haiti supposedly is being run by democratic governments which is not true, they have a lot of dictators there. And a lot of pressure and interference from the United States. So it is political too, besides the poverty that's been created there, so they should be treated just like Cubans. Other immigrants—they should be treated the same. Stop the restriction they got making it hard for families to reunite. Senator Marco Rubio said he approves of immigration reform if they come here legally and wait in the line, but people have been waiting 15–20 years in the line. That's not fair. Besides we give this wrong sense of reality of what's going on in this country because we export movies and TV shows where everybody lives in fabulous mansions, got great jobs, fancy cars, and when they come here they find that the land of the dream is nothing but the land of the nightmare.

Story 4: I've been in this country for 14 years. My kids were born here, we're a part of this country. I pay taxes, we're part of the country's economy. We haven't committed any crimes. We drive a car without insurance. I think that that's bad for the country's economy. There are 12 million [people] driving without insurance. I think that being able to have a license is a good option and that residency should come with a path to citizenship. Us immigrant believe that we are helping the country. I don't see any reason for not wanting to make a path to citizenship. We have a clean record, we've bought property. I think we'd all be better off financially by contributing to this country, it's healthy for the country. We hope that Senator Marco Rubio understands a little of the problem.

Story 5: My dream is for immigration reform because immigration reform will allow me to attend any college I choose and to have a bigger dream than my parents had.

Story 6: Immigration reform will change my life because it will give me reassurance that my friend will not be deported.

Story 7: I'm an aspiring student. A pathway to citizenship will allow everyone to pursue their dreams.

Story 8: For the past two years I have been trying to renew my driver's license, but I have not been successful. I am required to present additional immigration documents that I am not eligible to have.

A few days ago I was given a ticket for driving without proper ID. Today I am limiting my driving as much as I possibly can. What you need to understand is that we have been living in Miami for the past 17 years and have been running our family business in Miami for the past eight years.

If I don't have the freedom to drive around, I am afraid that our family business will suffer to the point that we as a family will not be able to sustain ourselves.

Story 9: I came to the United States 17 years ago. I applied for political asylum and was denied. Without realizing it, I had a deportation order and I was very scared. I have a young child and am wishing for comprehensive immigration reform for the single moms, for the moms that have young children, because it makes me scared to leave my child. I'm hoping for immigration reform for all the women out there that work as housekeepers, maids, etc., and also for folks with deportation orders that have small children and can't leave them. This is the best place for them, and they can't go back. I'm hoping it will help all of us too. Thank you very much.

Story 10: I've been an American citizen for more than 20 years. I became one in Chicago. There are so many things that we are hearing every day dealing with immigrants and the manner in which immigrants are abused because they're farmers and unfortunately undocumented. We hear about the suffering of these poor people who are my race too. It's an explosion from both political parties—Democrats and Republicans. Immigrants have been abused constantly since when I was young. Now I'm 74 years old. The suffering these people have gone and are going through is inhumane. What they're doing to my people is criminal. That's why I'm fully in favor of them becoming citizens as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

Story 11: I live in Lakeland, Florida. I'm Mexican, and I have lived in here for over 23 years. My four children are citizens, and I have my house paid for 14 years. My problem is immigration. I worked many years as a farm worker, but one day I looked for work in construction. After starting construction work, the boss told us that we have to give fingerprints. But what happened? A week later they called me to come back because something had come up. I went back and they told me "Just wait here. Something went wrong." Then came two police officers to interview me. They said, "I want to see the tattoos you have." I told them, "I have no tattoos, sir." They were confusing me with someone else and there began my problem. I was in jail for six days. Immigration takes its inmates to Tampa around 6:00 a.m. There, I set a bail of \$1,500, and I was let go. But my problem is still pending. And again, I am looking for a better job. Now I have a deportation order for May 7, and if nobody helps me I'll be deported. So I ask the Senator Marco Rubio and Congressman Dennis Ross please say yes to immigration reform, no more for me but for thousands of undocumented families who are here. I do not want to see them go through the same problem I'm having. Thank you very much.

Update: He received a stay of removal from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He applied for a work permit and driver's license after receiving the notification. The fear of being separated from his family has been lifted, at least temporarily.

Story 12: I agree to the legalizing 11 million illegal immigrants. They have the right to remain in this country because many have brought their families, their children have grown up here, and they already have Amer-

ican ways. Take my case, for example—I came to this country for education and for a better life for my family. I went without seeing my daughter for years, but once I became a resident I was able to request her. It is for this reason that I agree that illegal immigrants and their families should receive their documents and live more peacefully. Living anxiously and not having status is horrible. I support all people of good will to resolve their immigration status.

Story 13: I'm Mexican. I came to the U.S. eight years ago following my husband. He has lived here for 25 years. We have three children, two living in Mexico and one living with us here in the U.S. Although not born here, he does not know any country other than this one. Since I arrived here, I have served as a volunteer at my son's school. I know all the work that teachers do in Mexico because I worked as a teacher for 20 years. I have 20 years of experience, but here for lack of papers, I had to work as a maid. I want immigration reform to pass.

Story 14: I say yes to citizenship and residence. My mom is a person of 72 years. She must have psychiatric treatment because of her depression, which is caused by the fact that one of my brothers, who is 45, cannot be a resident, even though he has lived here for more than 10 years. The reform [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals] is only for young people. Then I have another brother who is a citizen and has been diagnosed with colon cancer. For these reasons we need my brother to stay with us. He is the only one that does not have papers. I think there should be a reform as soon as possible.

Story 15: I say yes to citizenship. I came here in 2001 with my tourist visa and my daughter. She came on the same visa with me. She grew up here during the past 12 years, but she is now back in Ecuador. My driver's license expired in 2006, so now I am frustrated because I cannot drive. I am a very good-hearted person and have a lot of creativity. I have been working with Amway, and I pay my taxes. I would like to go out and drive and have clients. I have been very obedient. I have not driven. Instead, I have my bike and I go by buses. My daughter was so frustrated that she went back to Ecuador two years ago. She loves this country as I love this country. We help people so I am prepared to help people in very good ways.

GIVING THANKS FOR AMERICA'S "FIRST FREEDOM"

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD remarks I delivered yesterday at America's Table Thanksgiving Luncheon hosted by the American Jewish Committee:

I would like to begin by thanking AJC for the invitation to join you at the annual "America's Table Thanksgiving Luncheon" the theme of which is religious freedom.

In 1620 a hearty band of Pilgrims set sail for the New World in the face of tremendous peril and uncertainty such that they might be able to live, act and worship according to the dictates of their conscience.

The traditional first Thanksgiving feast celebrated at Plymouth was a time for the Pilgrims who had survived the journey by sea and the harsh winter that followed to give thanks for the bountiful harvest and

recognize the hand of Divine Providence that had guided them to this point.

I read with great interest recently that this year, for the first time since 1888, Thanksgiving and the first full day of Hanukkah fall on the same day.

There are of course deep thematic commonalities between the two holidays—both grounded in triumph over religious oppression.

But even as we celebrate the American experience in this regard, I am reminded anew that religious freedom remains an elusive hope for too many. As I reflect on the privilege of living in America I am cognizant of the responsibility that comes with that to help those around the world who are oppressed or persecuted.

Martin Luther King Jr. famously said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." Dr. King's statement is so poignant. In times of trouble, the silence of an enemy is expected, but the silence of a friend is devastating.

I am concerned that this nation, which has always been a friend to the oppressed, the marginalized and the forgotten is at risk of sidelining this "first freedom" and failing to speak out when it comes under attack.

Arguably religious freedom has never been more under assault than it is today.

Looking to the Middle East there is often societal and communal violence and repression against religious communities which specifically targets religious minorities. Too often the governments of these lands foster an atmosphere of intolerance or in some cases such as Iran, outright criminality as it relates to different faith traditions like the Baha'is. Tragically, since 1979, the Iranian government has killed more than 200 Baha'i leaders and dismissed over 10,000 from government and university jobs.

The dangerous realities facing religious minorities have been exasperated by the so-called Arab Spring—a Spring which has devolved into Winter for many of the most vulnerable in these societies.

In February I travelled to the Middle East—specifically to Lebanon and Egypt. One of the main purposes of the trip was to spend time with the Syrian Christian community—a community with ancient roots dating back to the 1st century. I wanted to hear firsthand from Syrian Christians about their concerns and to put this issue in the larger context of an imperiled Christian community in the broader Middle East, specifically in Egypt and Iraq.

In my meetings with Coptic Christians and other minorities in Egypt they spoke of being increasingly marginalized with the ascendancy of the Muslim Brotherhood. While Morsi has since been removed from power, the situation in Egypt today remains fluid. However, this much is clear: Attacks against Coptic Christians have escalated and they are feeling threatened in the land they have inhabited for centuries.

The issues I've just outlined must be viewed not simply as today's news but rather through the lens of history. A phrase not often heard outside the majority Muslim world is "First the Saturday people, then the Sunday people." The "Saturday people" are, of course, the Jewish people.

Except for Israel, their once vibrant communities in countries throughout the region are now decimated. In 1948 the Jewish population of Iraq was roughly 150,000; today no more than 4 remain . . . some reports indicate there may actually be just one Jewish person left in Iraq. In Egypt, the Jewish population was once as many as 80,000; now roughly 20 remain.

Consider this observation by author and adjunct fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom, Lela Gilbert, who recently wrote in the Huffington Post: "Between 1948 and 1970, between 80,000 and 100,000 Jews were expelled from Egypt—their properties and funds confiscated, their passports seized and destroyed. They left, stateless, with little more than the shirts on their backs to show for centuries of Egyptian citizenship. . . ."

One of my last meetings in Egypt last February was with 86-year-old Carmen Weinstein, the president of the Jewish Community of Cairo (JCC). She was born and raised in Egypt and had lived her entire life there. She led a small community of mostly elderly Jewish women in Cairo, who with their sister community in Alexandria, represent Egypt's remaining Jews.

There are 12 synagogues left in Cairo. Some, along with a landmark synagogue in Alexandria, have been refurbished by the government of Egypt and/or U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and have received protection as cultural and religious landmarks—many have not.

Further, the 900 year old Bassatine Jewish Cemetery is half overrun with squatters and sewage. Ms. Weinstein sought to preserve these historic landmarks as well as the patrimony records of the Egyptian Jewish community.

I am aware of the good work of AJC in establishing a fund for the maintenance and preservation of Jewish cultural, religious and historical landmarks, including cemeteries, in Egypt.

Not long after my return to the U.S., Ms. Weinstein passed away and is now buried in the very cemetery she sought to protect. Meanwhile, with the fall of Hosni Mubarak, Coptic Christians, numbering roughly 8-10 million, are leaving in droves in the face of increased repression, persecution and violence.

Similarly, Iraq's Christian population has fallen from as many as 1.4 million in 2003 to roughly 500,000 today. There are roughly 60 Christian churches in the entire country, down from more than 300 as recently as 2003.

Of course other, much smaller but no less vulnerable, religious minorities have also suffered greatly in Iraq.

Over the span of a few decades, the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, has virtually been emptied of its Jewish community. In my conversations with Syrian Christian refugees, Lebanese Christians and Coptic Christians in Egypt, a resounding theme emerged: a similar fate may await the "Sunday People."

While it remains to be seen whether the historic exodus of Christians from the region will prove to be as dramatic as what has already happened to the Jewish community, it is without question devastating, as it threatens to erase Christianity, and in fact Judaism in many respects, from its very roots.

Consider Iraq. With the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to the cities, regions and nations of ancient Iraq than any other country. The patriarch Abraham came from a city in Iraq called Ur. Isaac's bride, Rebekah, came from northwest Iraq.

Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq, and his sons (the 12 tribes of Israel) were born in northwest Iraq. A remarkable spiritual revival as told in the book of Jonah occurred in Nineveh. The events of the book of Esther took place in Iraq as did the account of Daniel in the Lion's Den. Furthermore, many of Iraq's Christians still speak Aramaic the language of Jesus.

In Egypt, some 2,000 years ago, Mary, Joseph and Jesus sought refuge in this land from the murderous aims of King Herod. Egypt's Coptic community traces its origins

to the apostle Mark. If the Middle East is effectively emptied of the Christian faith, this will have grave geopolitical implications.

But rather than being met with urgency, vision or creativity, our government's response has been anemic and at times outright baffling especially to the communities most impacted by the changing Middle East landscape.

In conversation after conversation Coptic Christians, reformers, secularist, women and others have told me that the U.S. was perceived as the largest supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood-led government. Further, there was a widely held perception that the U.S. was either disengaged or simply uninterested in advocating for religious freedom and other basic human rights.

While the situation is grim in the Middle East—it is hardly an anomaly. People of faith are under assault elsewhere in the world.

The Chinese government maintains a brutal system of labor camps. Common criminals languish behind bars with people of faith and Nobel laureates who dare to question the regime's authority. A February 2013 Christianity Today piece reported that "China's Christians felt a noticeable rise in persecution in 2012 as the Communist government began the first of a three-phase plan to eradicate unregistered house churches, a new report says." Currently every one of the approximately 25 underground bishops of the Catholic Church is either in jail, under house arrest, under strict surveillance, or in hiding.

The government is an equal opportunity persecutor of people of faith. Over the last two years, over 100 peace-loving Tibetans have set themselves aflame in desperation at the abuses suffered by their people.

The government of Vietnam continues to suppress political dissent and severely limit freedom of expression, association, and public assembly.

In Pakistan, Ahmadi Muslims are prohibited from voting and their graves are desecrated.

In Europe, Anti-Semitism is on the ascent.

A November 8 New York Times article reported, "Fear of rising anti-Semitism in Europe has prompted nearly a third of European Jews to consider emigration because they do not feel safe in their home country, according to a detailed survey of Jewish perceptions released Friday by a European Union agency that monitors discrimination and other violations of basic rights." The survey referenced was released on the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht violence against Jews in Nazi Germany.

In a piece which ran in the Miami Herald last fall, AJC's Miami director poignantly wrote, "World War II and the destruction of European Jewry taught us that anti-Semitism not only kills Jews, but also poisons and ultimately destroys the society that harbors it. People of good will said, 'Never again,' instituted courses on the Holocaust, and countered the image of the defenseless Jew by supporting the sovereign and democratic state of Israel. Yet today, seven decades after the Nazi death camps became operational, that lesson seems to be already forgotten in much of Europe, where small and defenseless Jewish communities face a renewed surge of anti-Semitism. This Jew-hatred expresses itself in xenophobic politics; physical attacks and intimidation; and interference with basic elements of Jewish religious practice."

This is troubling on a host of levels. For as history has shown us, if the Jews of a country were free to practice their faith, one could be reasonably confident that tolerance and freedom were possible for others.

The Jewish people have characteristically been the canaries in the coal mine—litmus indicators of the state of freedom for all.

In light of these realities, it is clear that religious freedom is under assault globally. Last September the Pew Research Center released a startling study which found that "three-quarters of the world's approximately 7 billion people live in countries with high government restrictions on religion or high social hostilities involving religion, up from 70% a year earlier."

It is clear that the United States must do more to speak for those whose voices have been silenced. Frankly, the Obama administration in country after country has consistently sidelined human rights and religious freedom.

In China we were told early on by Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton that human rights issues in China "can't interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis, and the security crisis."

In Sudan the administration actively working to undermine congressional attempts to isolate indicted war criminal and architect of genocide, Omar Bashir. Meanwhile, this Spring, the administration rewarded a notorious Sudanese government official, accused of torturing enemies and seeking to block U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur, with an invitation to Washington for high-level meetings.

In Vietnam, the Obama administration, like the administration before it, has ignored bipartisan Congressional calls to place the government on the State Department's list of the most egregious religious freedom violators, despite crackdowns on people of faith, preferring instead a policy defined simply by trade.

In fact the administration has failed to designate any countries of particular concern, as it is required to do by law, since 2011.

The list goes on.

Turning back again to the Middle East: I have authored bipartisan legislation with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo which would create a special envoy position at the State Department charged with advocating for religious minorities in the Middle East and South Central Asia—specifically focusing on many of the countries I've mentioned here today.

The legislation overwhelmingly passed the House earlier this Fall and is languishing in the Senate in part due to State Department opposition to virtually identical legislation last year.

I am under no illusions that a special envoy holds the key to the survival or even thriving of these ancient faith communities. But to do nothing is not an option. And that seems to be precisely what this administration aims to do.

Not only has it stood in the way of the envoy legislation, key positions within the foreign policy apparatus charged with prioritizing these issues have suffered extended vacancies and individual political prisoner cases are rarely raised in public thereby sending a clear message to tyrants and oppressors the world over that there is little price to pay for violating the first freedom.

While I will continue to press for swift Senate action on the special envoy legislation, I leave you with a charge.

I am increasingly convinced that the discussion (or lack thereof) among government leaders and opinion makers on this issue of religious persecution, is simply a downstream manifestation of what is happening in the broader culture, and specifically in the faith community domestically.

When people of faith in this country are concerned about and advocate for people of faith who are besieged around the world, the government tends to act.

Consider the shining example of Cold War advocacy by the American Jewish community which championed the plight of Soviet Jewry with remarkable effect.

Could such passion be galvanized once again?

I'll close with the inspiring words of one of America's greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln.

Speaking to a nation torn apart by bloody civil war, he still saw the importance of giving thanks, and in 1863 set apart the last Thursday of November for such a celebration declaring:

"We are prone to forget the Source from which [the blessings of fruitful years and healthful skies] come. . . . No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God. . . ."

While each of us may hail from varied backgrounds and beliefs, we know as Americans that religious freedom is our birthright—a gracious gift of the Most High God not to be denied by any man or government.

As we gather today and later next week with family and friends let us pause for a moment and give thanks for our first freedom while not forgetting those for whom this gracious gift is denied.

HONORING JOHN D. SLATER, SR. FOR HIS COURAGEOUS SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding World War II service of Private John D. Slater, Sr.

Mr. Slater was born in 1919, just a year after the close of the First World War. He grew up in a country ravaged by the Great Depression and marked by segregation and Jim Crow. Mr. Slater lived in some of the deepest parts of the South, picking cotton as early as five years old.

When war broke out in Europe and reached our doorstep in the Pacific, Mr. Slater was drafted into the Army to serve and protect our country. He served in the 43rd Quartermaster Company and the 2nd Army.

Mr. Slater's company crossed the Rhine River on temporary bridges during heavy shelling, facing fierce opposition at every turn. By war's end, Mr. Slater had served in France, Belgium and Holland.

At one point, Mr. Slater was separated from his company behind enemy lines for three months before being found 1,000 miles from their destination point. In 1946, he was honorably discharged after four years in the Army.

Today, at 94 years old, Mr. Slater is one of only three remaining African Americans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. During this, the last-gasp effort of the German army, the allied forces bent, but held and won the day—and the war. Mr. Slater was not only a witness to a defining moment in the world's history, he helped shape it.

After the war, Mr. Slater blazed his own trail, working for roughly 30 years with American Motors, starting in 1949, and opening Slater's Barbecue in Waukegan, Illinois, in the district I represent, in 1957. On weekends, for 40 years, he would cook his famous foot-longs and ribs, serving a gracious and eager community.

Mr. Slater has been a devoted husband and father and a pillar of the community for decades. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize John D. Slater, Sr. for his service to our country and his impact in the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BLAIR MAHONEY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. GERLACH and Mr. PITTS to recognize Mr. Blair Mahoney for his distinguished leadership as Executive Director of the Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau (CVB), and to congratulate him on his retirement.

For the past five years, Mr. Mahoney has helped make Chester County a destination for visitors from across the Commonwealth and the nation. He instituted strong leadership, sound fiscal planning, a historic office renovation and relocation, and an award-winning branding campaign. Through these efforts, Mr. Mahoney helped communicate Chester County's cultural, natural, and historic treasures to many and draw new visitors and economic development to our region.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Blair Mahoney for his excellent service to the Chester County community and wish him well in his retirement. He takes with him the gratitude and respect of his staff, Board of Directors, peers and the people of Chester County.

SHARING STORIES IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the following are stories of individuals affected by our nation's broken immigration system:

Story 1: I came to this country in 1980 with the desire that all immigrants have—to seek better opportunities. I worked very hard to make my way in this country. I had the opportunity to apply for residency, thanks to the amnesty by President Ronald Reagan and the laws of this country. I presented the evidence required by the immigration process and my request was approved, giving me the temporary residence and my social security number.

After two years, I had to change from temporary residence to permanent residence, so I just had to request the change of status at any immigration office. I even was able to travel to Ecuador, and Immigration stamped my passport. Then, because my process was done in New Jersey but I had moved to Miami for personal reasons, in 1990 I went to the Immigration office in Miami. Since then, I have been subjected to negligence by Immigration. Instead of giving me the permanent residence, they just put a sticker to validate my temporary residence for one year more. That happened again the following year, and the third consecutive year after that. Then, they didn't want to give me the residency, because they said that LULAC cases in

Miami had been fraudulent, to which I responded that actually my case had been in New Jersey. They said that I had to bring my case from New Jersey to Miami, which took three more years. After that, I started wondering what was wrong with my case. They always responded to me with endless excuses: a fire took place at an immigration office and a lot of information was damaged, paperwork became too backed up when they had to put all the information of all cases in a computer system, elections were taking place, I needed to complete and return another form and get fingerprinted. I completed and returned the form, then I was fingerprinted and had to wait more. I trusted the agents of this country and the laws, so I waited and waited. They asked me to fill out another form and so on and on. I sent three forms and fingerprints but nothing happened.

Then the attacks on September 11, 2001, happened, which made things worse. There was no news at all. An executive order by President George Bush was released, ordering that immigration documents should be given to people who got Reagan's reform. I presented it and nothing happened. I called two or three times every month asking about my case and nothing happened. I was told that the process took up to six months, but I already had spent two years waiting and nothing. In 2005, I found out about a brain tumor through my medical exams. I received surgery and after that I couldn't work so I lived in a critical economic situation. I lost everything I had. That same year, there was another executive order request to resolve immigration cases because of the many complaints from victims of the immigration service. I sent documentation by mail to the correct address and on time, and they rejected it three times. I found an honest lawyer that took the case (pro bono, because of my financial situation), and from there I had legal representation. We sent copies of the pages with the LULAC law, and we always got negative responses, so we filed appeals but received again negative responses. They asked me for proofs that were impossible to find after 23 years, but nevertheless I was able to find some. All of this just to make me lose the hope of solving my case.

In the last response not only did they deny my case, but also they took away my temporary residence. I demand my permanent residency and a path to citizenship without more delay, because I have tried for over 24 years with my residency, in the name of God, Jehovah, and the signed and executed laws of this country. Don't allow injustice to win in this country. You are politicians first for this country.

Story 2: Alex came here when he was very young. He's from Honduras. Honduras is a very poor country. His family is very poor, but he speaks fairly fluent English. He came here to get a better life. There's no work in Honduras and very high crime. He came here when he was probably 17 or 18 years old. He hitched rides on trains, travelling on boxcars with only the clothes he had and no money. So, he basically crossed three countries, I believe Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico. When he got to this country, of course he came here illegally, but he ended up in Virginia and he then went to Knoxville, Tennessee. During the time he was in Virginia and Tennessee, he was greatly exploited by people who had him working for them. He was all alone. He had no relatives and did not know anyone here in the United States. He met a girl, who was maybe four or five years older than him. She already had one child by a man from Honduras. She and Alex hooked up together

and she got pregnant by Alex. They came down here to Pensacola after Hurricane Ivan, that's when I met Alex. By that time, he had married the girl. They had her child, and two children that they had together.

Alex was a great worker. I met him, actually, through a neighbor who he had worked for. So, we became friends. For a while there, I was in a wheelchair and Alex took care of me. He's just an incredible person. He just seems to have been born knowing what to do with children. He was a great father. He was great with older people and with people who have disabilities. He loved animals; he was constantly rescuing animals.

He came home one day, and when he got out of his car to walk into his house a police officer or sheriff's deputy, I'm not sure which, approached him and asked him for his ID and driver's license. He did not have a driver's license. He did have a previous traffic violation that he had not paid, again it was probably for driving without a license, so he was arrested. When he was taken to the Escambia County Jail, within a week, the ICE came through the jail making a sweep, looking for undocumented people, and they found Alex. From that time, Alex never got out of jail. He served a sentence, a short sentence for the traffic violation. He was subsequently sent to prison or a holding area in Texas where they incarcerate undocumented people. In the mean time, he had had another baby before he got arrested, so now they had three children and the little baby was only about, maybe, four months old at that time. As a result of Alex not being around to help financially take care of the children, his wife had a nervous breakdown and could not take care of the children and so she turned them in to foster care. The foster care mother, who got the children, I believe, got them with the full intent of adopting them because she knew these children from their nursery school. Alex has not seen his children since, and this has been about two and a half years ago. But, what he did do is he tried every way he could to get his children back; to get his children allowed to go to Honduras with him. He wrote numerous letters to his children. He sent those letters to me and I would send them to an attorney who was supposedly representing him in a dependency case. It became obvious to me that the foster mother was not letting the children read the letters that Alex wrote to them. He also was not allowed to call the children. She did not want him talking to his children, so he was not allowed to talk to them on the phone, they were not allowed to see his letters, he was not allowed to have any communication with his children. He eventually got deported. He continued trying to get his lawyer here to help him communicate with the children and to get a home study done there in Honduras in order for him to get his children back.

What I'm going to read are some letters to give you an example of the types of letters he wrote his children. After he was deported, he came back to the United States again. He came back on a train, hiking trains, riding on boxcars, going through three countries, no money, just the clothes on his back. He crossed the border and was apprehended by the border guards within minutes, so again he was in jail. But he came back only for one reason, and that was to get his children. I believe that was his only hope of getting his children back, was coming back to the United States.

It says, in beautiful writing, stylized writing, it says, "I love you," it says, "with all my heart. You are in my mind. I'm trying to be with all of you. But it's only me and God. I hope these people here let me stay with you because I really want and love you all. I hope you all like this. Kisses, hugs, love, your papa." I can't read anymore.

So, that's all I'm going to read, Alex.

Alex: Yeah, I know and I've been thinking about them and this thing, you know. But, there's nothing I can do, so maybe I'll see them one day.

Well, I don't know what we can do, but we certainly are going to let people know what happened to you, okay?

Alex: Yeah And, hopefully, we can do something with your book, and at least, maybe one day, when they're older, I believe they will find you and this book. They will know how much you love them and that you fought for them and what you went through to get them back.

Story 3: My story begins in 1998 when my mom and my three sisters decided to come, well, my mom decided that we all would come to the United States as a result of my little sister being sick. We did not have the money to cure her. She needed surgery and stuff. I was in high school and had no money for college, even though education was one of the things that made my mom determined that we come to America. So then I came to Mexico with my mom and my three sisters. In 1998 we crossed through Arizona and arrived in Florida about two weeks later. When I got here, the obvious thing was for me to study. My goal was always only to collect enough money to pay my university in Mexico. Once we got here we found work, but I had an accident about three months after I got here and then for a while, like a year and a half, I had to go and live in Colorado with my brother because I could not work. I had an accident at work and I never got compensation or anything. I have hands that do not work very well, mostly my fingers, because I had to have a transplant in my hands because I lost part of my bones and tendons in the accident. There are many who are injured on the job and are entitled to be served, to receive therapies and receive a salary. But at the time I was a child, I was 18 if I remember correctly, and I had not filed an application. It was just one of those jobs where you say you go, then the company denied that I had registered, but I said, "If I was taken from there, the fire department took me out of work," but I did not have insurance, I did not have a social worker to help me, I had no one. I had to pay all expenses. I did not know the language or the laws. I came across a social worker when I was in the hospital and they told me that if I tried to do something with the company all that would happen was that I would be deported. What remained was a deep depression after the accident because I could not work and was in therapy for over a year. But I still had the dream of wanting to study. Then I had to learn to deal with my condition, not being stuck at this point. Since my accident, I could not carry heavy things when I was at work, but I still had to work. I try to do everything with one hand because I cannot put much weight on the other hand. Right now I live with someone and I have two small children, one age six and one four, and I live with my sister. All my immediate family is in the United States. My mom passed away about twelve or thirteen years ago and is buried here in Florida. I say deport me if I'm not going to have even the right to visit the grave of my mother. This is not politics, these are human lives. Maybe I do not speak perfect English, or write perfect English, but my life is in this country. If I were deported to Mexico I will be foreign in that country, because I already have been living here for many years. I have no family there, it's like I will be tossed into a city I do not know. My sister took care of her residence when my brother-in-law married her. I have a U.S. citizen sister who was born in this country, and my other sister, Andrea, was still a minor when my mother died. Of all my siblings, I

am the only one who does not have legal status. I have an application but that supposedly takes many years and I have gotten no response. This is not politics; we are human beings of flesh and blood. For many it is very easy to say why we came here illegally, they don't see the need to leave our home countries. They do not know what it is to have someone get sick and not have to medicine. They do not know what it is to go three days without eating. This is not politics, these are human lives.

Story 4: I came to the United States 13 years ago. I am undocumented, I have two kids, one who was born here. I'm with my husband. We fled from Nicaragua because even though the Sandinista government was in power, there was still a threat from the mobs, and our lives were in danger. It's for that reason that we decided to come to this country. We asked for political asylum, for which we were denied, because according to the United States, Nicaragua has a democracy, which is not true. Everything is limited by the Sandinista government. I say yes to citizenship and yes to immigration reform, because I feel a part of this great nation, because I pay my taxes, because my daughters have adopted this lifestyle, because my country doesn't have economic priorities, it doesn't enjoy democracy as it should be. For those reasons I would like immigration reform. I say yes to citizenship so I have the ability to buy my house, so I can keep studying, so that I don't have to be nervous to keep driving without a license, so that I don't have to keep having to fear if my husband will come back or if it will be the last day that we see him. I ask the legislators to give us the opportunity for a new path to citizenship.

Story 5: I've been living here for 23 years. I came from Mexico and I've worked very hard in this country. I left ahead of my family in Mexico. Here too. I'm tired of living in the shadows. I have a son who is an American citizen, and I thought that when he turned 21 we could ask immediately, but that not the case because we came here illegally. I say yes to citizenship, for everyone like me that has worked hard, that pays their taxes and that haven't asked the government for anything. I say yes to give us an opportunity to move forward.

Story 6: I have 23 years here, and I like that Rep. Dennis Ross is making laws here that bring people hired from Mexico to here. That doesn't benefit me because I've been here for 23 years and I want to help people who are here, not the ones that are going to come. I say yes to reform for the 11 million undocumented people that are here. I'm going through a problem with immigration. I have for kids who are citizens here, I have my house, I pay taxes. Unfortunately, if there's no solution by May 7th, I'll be deported. I ask Denis Ross to support me with a green card or papers so that I won't be deported, because I want to see my family united, I don't want to be separated from my kids so they're not left on their own.

Story 7: I'm Cuban and I come from the Apopka Farmer's Association. My goal in participating in the caravan because I am also an immigrant, even though it's legal, but I'm an immigrant, my main goal is to support people who are illegal and are fighting for immigration reform. I understand that they have come here for work, to give to this country, and when I think of all of them that have come to contribute to the society of the United States, they deserve the

right to be a legal citizen.

Story 8: I'm saying yes to citizenship. I'm a social worker. As a social worker at Hialeah hospital, I came in contact with a victim of domestic violence. The woman, I spoke to her, listened to her, built trust with her and I was able to connect her to a women's shelter. She was, during our conversation, she was very scared of having contact with the police because she was undocumented, and it was, you know, I worked with her and at the end I was able to connect her to the women's shelter. Her abuser was, he was a citizen, a Cuban-American or a Cuban citizen, and he would manipulate her because of her immigration status.

Story 9: Hello, I am saying yes to citizenship and yes to immigration reform for illegal immigrants here in the United States. I am a United States citizen and my parents are illegal immigrants. They've been in this country for about 23 years, 24 years, and usually, I was born in Oregon, and usually at the age of 21 I believed I would be able to grant them a path to citizenship. When I turned 20, I started investigating and talking with lawyers to see how they would be able to get that accomplished and it turns out that it wasn't that easy, wasn't that simple and I wasn't able to get them a path to be a resident, to go ahead with this process to become a US citizen. It didn't work. I'm just, I've been time and time again, for every lawyer, kind of lawyers, immigration lawyers, everything, to marches of, to say yes to immigration reform and I just feel like right now is the right time to just keep pushing forward and I say yes to all the families and everyone. We the immigrants, most immigrants, everyone's an immigrant in the United States, and it's just hurtful that those immigrants make up part of this economy and help with the economic growth and to keep taking these parents away from their children and keep separating families, it's not the way this country was built and I'm just calling to say that I'm saying yes to immigration reform and yes for a pathway to citizenship for all illegal immigrants.

RECOGNIZING THE WHIPPLE WARRIORS

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Whipple Warriors, a group founded by Ronda Bogani Ayala of West Palm Beach, Florida. This organization is dedicated to helping people with pancreatic cancer who qualify for a procedure known as "Whipple" surgery.

Pancreatic cancer is a heart-breaking disease with a very low life expectancy. About 3 out of 4 patients die within the first year of diagnosis. Whipple surgery can help increase the life expectancy of those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, though only about 15 percent of patients qualify for this dangerous and complicated procedure.

In January 2010, Ms. Ayala received the devastating diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. However, she was a candidate for the Whipple surgery. After her procedure she found very few resources for support and guidance. She decided to create an organization called the Whipple Warriors in 2011.

The Whipple Warriors provide support to patients in many countries, allowing patients to

discuss their experiences and share ways to cope with the cancer. Additionally, Whipple Warriors members participate in research to study the long-term effects on the body. They provide much-needed resources to the growing community of survivors around the world.

In honor of Ronda and her organization's tireless work for the pancreatic cancer community, I am pleased to recognize the Whipple Warriors and wish them continued success in this important endeavor.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S.-MOROCCAN ECONOMIC AND SECURITY PART- NERSHIP

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week I had the pleasure of attending a business meeting with a high level delegation from Morocco during His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco's visit to Washington. During this meeting, we discussed U.S.-Morocco trade and I am glad that FedEx, a major provider of high value-added logistics, transportation and other business services that is headquartered in my district, was also able to take part in this constructive meeting. As Morocco was the first country with whom the U.S. signed a treaty of commerce and friendship, I commend this week's meeting as symbolic of our long and trusted relationship.

The business delegation meeting was hosted by our former colleague, Toby Moffet, and the Mayer Brown law firm. The Moroccan delegation included: Mr. Abdessalam Ahizoune, CEO of Maroc Telecom; Mr. Mohamed El Kettani, CEO of Attijariwafa Bank; Mr. Karim Hajji, CEO of the Casablanca Stock Exchange; and Mr. Said Ibrahim, CEO of the Moroccan Finance Board. In addition to FedEx, which is present in 55 African countries and growing, American companies represented at the meeting were JP Morgan Chase, BNY Mellon, Citi, Bank of America, Chevron and the Global Cold Chain Storage Alliance. We heard from Mr. Said Ibrahim, who also serves as the head of the Casablanca Finance City project, on how the city of Casablanca is positioning itself as a location for U.S. multinational companies to consider for their African headquarters. This would significantly increase economic opportunities in the region and expand markets for U.S. companies.

In addition to our strong business ties, the U.S. and Morocco share similar democratic values and common foreign policy goals in North Africa and the Middle East. In August 2011, I spearheaded a letter to His Majesty King Mohammed VI recognizing Morocco's constitutional reforms that included protections for the rights of vulnerable groups and a national plan to promote human rights. His Majesty King Mohammed VI also established the Economic and Social Council to ensure that all Moroccans are afforded opportunities for economic independence. Since that time, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has shown great leadership in his dedication to his people and support for broader democratic reforms and decentralization of decision-making to the local level. Morocco has also lent its support to

emerging democracies across the African continent as well as long-overdue peace agreements between Israelis and the Palestinians. It is indeed refreshing to see the enormously constructive role Morocco continues to play not only in its region but across the continent and beyond.

As we welcome His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and his delegation to Washington, let us remember that Morocco was the first country to recognize our independence and that today, we share commitments to peace, democracy, regional stability and economic stability. Through our continued cooperation and increased business relationships, we will continue to meet our common security and economic goals while strengthening our relationship for years to come.

RECOGNIZING HONOREES AND OF- FICERS OF THE ANNANDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department, and to congratulate the 2013 award recipients and incoming 2014 officers and board members.

The Annandale Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department is 1 of 12 volunteer fire departments in Fairfax County, and since its founding in 1940, it has provided lifesaving, fire suppression/prevention, and emergency medical/rescue services to the residents of the Annandale area and the surrounding community. The AVFD owns two stations, Station 8 on Columbia Pike and Station 23 on Little River Turnpike, and its front line fleet includes ambulances, a medic, 2 engines, and 1 canteen unit. The Department also provides opportunities for professional growth and development of the membership.

The most valuable assets of the AVFD are the volunteers who donate their time and resources in service to our community. Last year alone, these highly skilled and committed volunteers contributed in excess of 15,000 hours responding to emergency incidents, attending training, and fundraising. Each year the AVFD recognizes those volunteers who have excelled in service and commitment, and it is my honor to enter the following names of the 2013 Annandale Volunteer Fire Department into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Outstanding Service Award (5 recipients): Steve Menger, Walt Ferrebee, Lisa Lieu, Leslie Plummer, and Kathleen Hinman

Highest Admin Hours Award: Shirley Binsky
Admin Member of the Year: Anthony Ruth
Rookie Members of the Year (2 recipients): Chessy Dintruff and Roberto Melgar

Most Training Hours: Suzanne Adams
Most Riding Hours: Tiffany Disbrow

Support Member of the Year: Fran Carfaro
President's Award (2 recipients): Michael Hassan and Diana Phan

Chief's Award (2 recipients): Sean Beatty and Tiffany Disbrow

John G. Fox, Jr. Memorial Award (2 recipients): Ronald Waller and Laura Dye

Additionally, I wish to congratulate and thank the following men and women who have agreed to assume additional responsibilities as officers and board members for 2014:

Chief: Roger Waller
 President: Gary Moore
 Vice President: Sean Bhatti
 Treasurer: Ronald Waller
 Secretary: Diana Phan
 Directors: Shirley Binsky, Michael Hassan, and Peter Snitzer

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2013 award recipients and in commending the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department for 73 years of service. I thank the brave volunteers whose dedication to public safety is deserving of our highest praise, and to each of these men and women I say: "Stay safe."

IN HONOR OF THE SALINAS SCHOOL OF DANCE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Salinas School of Dance, which is celebrating its seventy-fifth year of excellence in dance instruction in Salinas, California.

The Salinas School of Dance was founded in 1938 by professional dancer Mr. Ramon Renov, who brought his world class dance experience to the small farming town of Salinas. He performed in the esteemed Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo in Europe and the United States. Mr. Renov retired in 1980 and bestowed ownership to Lisa Eisemann. She has continued a reputation of excellence, maintaining high standards in curriculum and teaching, and constant upgrades to make the studio the heart of the City of Salinas. Ms. Eisemann continues to teach Russian Vaganova style ballet to students of all ages.

The Salinas School of Dance studio is now home to two structured companies; the Salinas Valley Civic Ballet Company and the Spirit of Salinas Irish Dancers. Ballet, tap, jazz, Irish dance and Tappin' Dad classes are taught five days a week. The Spirit of the Irish Dancers is a high performance group that has performed at many local and international events. Two years ago, they performed for the Lord Mayor of Drogheda, Ireland who invited them to visit Ireland and told the Mayor of Salinas that the dance group's skills supersede that of his own country's Irish Dancers.

Every child is welcome to learn and dance at the Salinas School of Dance. Currently, they have children with serious learning disabilities and one young man that has a prosthetic leg and one arm. His parents recently commented that being in ballet has given him confidence that nothing else has provided. He is ten years old and it's his second year at the studio. It is because of Ms. Eisemann's ability to connect with the community and her leadership skills that many of its dance classes remain full year round throughout Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties.

For seventy-five years, the Salinas School of Dance has been a positive fixture in the community. With structure, personal responsibility, respect, and commitment forming the foundation of the dance program, it is no won-

der that the Salinas School of Dance has endured and become one of the oldest businesses in Salinas.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Salinas School of Dance on its seventy-five years of excellence and wish you many more years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING UNC-TV FOR BEING HONORED AS AN AMERICAN GRADUATE CHAMPION

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate UNC-TV and WTVI-PBS Charlotte for being honored by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) as an American Graduate Champion.

The American Graduate Champion award is presented by the CPB to public media outlets which demonstrate commitment to help increase awareness of the perils of dropping out of high school and to help communities implement solutions to the problem. UNC-TV has exhibited a wide variety of programming focused on improving educational outcomes for students throughout North Carolina including airing a weekly series titled "Black Issues Forum," hosting a panel discussion before a live audience called "Bridge to Success" at Union Independent School in Durham, North Carolina, and participating in the "virtual teacher town hall" project with other groups throughout the country.

I was honored to participate in UNC-TV's recognition of "American Graduate Day" on September 28, 2013. The valuable programming on UNC-TV has helped connect communities and identify practical solutions to educational challenges facing students, parents, teachers, and schools across North Carolina's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I commend UNC-TV for its contributions to students and families throughout North Carolina. Encouraging students to stay in school has never been more important because a high school degree is a critical building block to success in today's competitive global economy. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating UNC-TV's great achievement by being recognized as an American Graduate Champion.

Thank you very much.

SHARING STORIES IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the following is one additional story of yet another individual affected by our nation's broken immigration system:

My parents came here 12 years ago from Mexico. I am an American citizen, but right now I am suffering a lot because my dad is detained in an immigration jail. I have three brothers and we all miss my dad very much.

Mr. Speaker, these stories represent but a small cross-section of those suffering as a result of our nation's outdated immigration laws. Millions more remain in the shadows. They all have waited long enough for Congress to act. The time for reform is now.

HONORING THE LEWISTON FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lewiston Firefighters Association for its service to Maine's children through its partnership with Operation Warm.

As firefighters, the members of the Lewiston Firefighters Association are committed to putting the safety and interests of the community before themselves, and their partnership with Operation Warm is a continuation of this tradition of selfless service. Throughout the fall, the Lewiston Firefighters Association engaged in a community outreach effort to raise funds to keep our children warm during Maine's harsh winter months. As a result of their outreach efforts, the Lewiston Firefighters Association will be donating one hundred, brand new winter coats to the children of Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care.

Since 1998, Operation Warm has partnered with organizations like the Lewiston Firefighters Association to provide winter coats to more than one million children in need. Especially in a state like Maine, where winter temperatures routinely fall far below freezing, our children are highly susceptible to illness, jeopardizing their health and education. By keeping our children warm and healthy, these coats minimize the chance that they will have to miss school.

On Tuesday, November 26, 2013, the Lewiston Firefighters Association will donate one hundred coats to the children of Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care at the Lewiston Central Fire Station in Lewiston, Maine. Through their commitment to service, these firefighters serve as exemplary role models for our children and truly represent the strong community spirit of the people of Maine.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in recognizing the Lewiston Firefighters Association for its partnership with Operation Warm and efforts on behalf of Maine's neediest children.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORINNE CLAIBORNE "LINDY" BOGGS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with great affection at this Thanksgiving season, to honor, remember, and celebrate the life of Representative "Lindy" Marie Corinne Morrison Claiborne Boggs, of New Orleans, Louisiana, who passed from this life earlier this year on July 27, 2013, but whose accomplishments and legacy continue to inspire her family, her constituency, her colleagues, and all whose lives she so generously influenced.

"Lindy" was born in Pointe Coupee Roads, Louisiana, on March 13, 1916. She was the only child of Roland Claiborne, a wealthy sugarcane plantation owner and prominent lawyer, and Corinne Morrison. Her nurse nicknamed her "Rolindy" because she thought Lindy resembled her father more than her mother.

Following her father's death when she was only two years old, Lindy and her mother went to live in New Orleans with her maternal grandparents. The Morrison family's roots can be traced back to the Mayflower. Lindy's grandmother Morrison had a great influence on her and lived to be ninety-seven, as did Lindy.

Her mother remarried when Lindy was six to a man who owned a cotton plantation. This is where Lindy said she was introduced to politics, as the plantations controlled much of the politics of the state.

This is also where Lindy was introduced to enduring, gracious, hard-working women. She said, "The women on plantations were absolutely remarkable. They had an autonomous situation. They had to do everything in the house . . . and everything had to be done in time for a huge mid-day dinner. Then, in the afternoon . . . they created their own cultural environment. They had musicals, and they had book reviews . . . it all occurred within those houses." With no work these women weren't willing to do, it never occurred to Lindy that women couldn't accomplish whatever they set their mind to.

Lindy matriculated at Newcomb College in New Orleans, the first women's college in Louisiana and the sister school to Tulane University, where she majored in history and education. During her freshman year at Newcomb, she met Thomas Hale Boggs, who was the editor of the Tulane University newspaper where Lindy served as women's editor.

In January 1938, at age twenty-one, she married Hale and, through university connections, Hale and Lindy embarked on a political career as part of the grass-roots reform movement that took place in Louisiana in the late 1930s. With Lindy's indefatigable support and help, Hale was elected to Congress in 1941, eventually rising to majority leader.

When Hale's plane tragically crashed in 1972 on a campaign trip in Alaska, not only did Lindy find herself raising their three children alone, but she also found herself running for his vacant seat, saying, "I woke up and just found myself running one morning; I never made a conscious decision to run."

Later, she would reflect: "When the various people were trying to persuade me to run . . . Lady Bird Johnson [wife of President Lyndon B. Johnson] . . . called and talked to me for a long time about how I had an obligation and all of these things. Then when she thought maybe she had convinced me, she said 'But darling, do you think you can do it without a wife?' I've told her many times, it was very hard without a wife."

In March 1973, Lindy Boggs was elected to the House of Representatives in a special election. Her victory made her the first woman to represent Louisiana in the House and the first Catholic elected from a State that had never elected a Catholic to any major state office.

Lindy was at first appointed to the Banking and Currency Committee, where she played a key role during the markup of the Equal Credit

Opportunity Act of 1974. She cited her experience as a newly widowed woman seeking credit as her motivation to add "sex or marital status" to the provision barring discrimination on the basis of "race and age, and their status as veterans." Without informing the other committee members, Lindy added those words and made copies of the revision for her colleagues, saying, "Knowing the Members composing this committee as well as I do, I'm sure it was just an oversight that we didn't have 'sex' or 'marital status' included." The bill passed unanimously.

It was this persistence and skill at indirect pressure that marked Lindy's style as a progressive southern woman working to advance the cause of humanity, acting as a champion of civil rights in her diverse district.

In 1976, she became the first woman to pre-empt over a national political convention. In 1977, she was elected to the House Committee on Appropriations. At her retirement she remained the longest serving female member of that committee after serving 12 years. That same year, she helped to co-found the Congressional Women's Caucus, later serving as its secretary. When Lindy was elected to Congress, only 16 women were serving in the House out of 435 members; by her retirement, there were 29.

In the early 1980's, Lindy helped create, and served as a member of, the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. From 1985 to 1989, she served as the chair of the Bicentenary of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In January 1991, at age 75 and after 18 years of service, Lindy Boggs retired from Congress to care for her daughter Barbara who was dying of cancer. In July of the same year, the House named a room off the Rotunda in her honor: The Lindy Claiborne Boggs Congressional Women's Reading Room.

In retirement, Lindy remained politically active, writing her autobiography *Washington Through a Purple Veil* in 1994. In 1997, President Clinton appointed the 81 year old as the first woman U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican, a position she proudly served until 2001.

Of the accomplishments she was most proud of, she cited bills she co-sponsored on behalf of minorities, women, and children; her efforts to improve education from the elementary to the college level; her work on the children's task force on crisis intervention; her efforts to open the National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C.; establishing the Office of Historian of the House of Representatives; and achieving Margaret Chase Smith's dream of making the rose the national flower.

Lindy Boggs's gracious southern charm, strong faith, sense of humor, quiet persistence, deep social conscience, and firm belief in what's right made her one of the most influential and extraordinary women of our time. She is dearly missed by all who knew her, and by all who have benefited from her extraordinary work.

Personally, I hold many wonderful memories of Lindy and her unending kindness. When I was first elected to the Appropriations Committee, as the only other woman on her side of the aisle, she made sure I sat next to her to coach me on the unique rules of the Committee. She always took the time to say hello and give an encouraging word. She offered Members rides home, she invited them to par-

ticipate in Caucus functions of which she was a part, and she worked hard to bring people together across the aisle in every way she could. She made the House a more human place.

May her surviving children—Cokie Roberts and Thomas Hale Boggs—as well as their spouses, children, grandchildren, family and friends draw strength at this time of bereavement from her incredible life and accomplishments. Truly, this was a woman for all seasons, a woman of extraordinary measure. Personally, she endured the loss of her father and husband, and then two of their children, Barbara Boggs Sigmund, who had been elected Mayor of Princeton, New Jersey, and infant William Robertson Boggs. Always, Lindy kept her eyes on the horizon and endured. She assumed responsibility after her husband's passing for continuing their brilliant partnership as progressive, elected Representatives from the State of Louisiana during times of enormous social change and broadened civil and human rights. And, she raised her young children on her own. Lindy's ascension to key Congressional Committees, often as the lone woman, carved a swath forward for gender equity in our nation. Her appointment as the first woman Ambassador to the Vatican in the last quarter of her life mark her total service to the people of the United States as one of the longest and most generous in the history of our nation, extending well over half a century. She was a patriot of the first order. Her legacy will live on in the legislation she passed and in the inspiration and encouragement she imparted to all those whose lives she touched so selflessly. May God bless her and place her among the stars that shine from the highest points in the cosmos. And to her family, a most sincere thank you for sharing her with the nation, and with the Congress, these many decades.

SHARING STORIES IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the stories of 65 Floridians whose lives have been profoundly impacted by this House's lack of action on immigration reform. The vast majority of Floridians, like the vast majority of Americans, support comprehensive immigration reform that creates a path to citizenship, secures our borders, and grows our economy.

These stories, collected by the ACLU of Florida, the Florida Immigrant Coalition, and other coalition groups from the "Say Yes" to Citizenship Campaign, were originally in Spanish, have been edited for length, and have had the names removed so that individuals who had been afraid to speak up could speak freely.

Whether we consider H.R. 15, which I introduced, or another vehicle, we cannot afford to wait any longer. I urge my colleagues to listen to these stories and recognize the real human consequences of our inaction.

Story 1: I met my husband in Colombia. He was on vacation and he was American. We fell in love and we married in Colombia.

When I got pregnant, we moved here to the United States because he wanted his son to grow up here. That was twenty years ago. We have three kids from our marriage. After my husband passed away I had to find a job. My English was minimal and I didn't have any family around to help. I was cleaning houses in the beginning, and I worked for UPS for six years. I left UPS and tried to follow my dad's career. He was a jeweler in Colombia, so I got a job with a local pawnshop in Jacksonville. I worked for them for four years, but I got in trouble for purchasing stolen merchandise and because of my knowledge—they said I should have known about it being stolen. The items were no more than a thousand dollars, but they split the items and charged me five times. I served four days of jail, four months of home arrest, and nine months of probation. After a year of my life being on hold and not being able to work and not knowing how to support my kids, I was obligated to plead guilty so I could keep going on with my life. I was very blessed and lucky to find a job where they got to know me and see what kind of person I am. I have been with them for one and a half years, and I have been promoted a couple of times. I flew to Columbia a year ago and when I came back, I was stopped by immigration in the airport and questioned about what happened. They told me that, because of the incident and leaving the county and coming back, they were going to start the procedure of deportation. They removed my green card and gave me a temporary green card for one year and I was to hear about what was going to happen. I've been in this country all my life. I worked in this county all my life. I have three American kids. I have a dead American husband. I think I'm American. I made the mistake of trusting someone and paid the consequences. I think we deserve another chance.

Story 2: I was born in Brazil. I came at the age of 14. I am a DREAM Act student. When I first arrived in the U.S., I learned about the importance of freedom. I learned what it meant to be an American. For me, those American ideals are really important. When I decided I was going to marry the person I love and decided to share the rest of my life with, I also wanted to fight for our right to be fully recognized in this country. I am an undocumented immigrant, but my spouse is a U.S. citizen. The only difference between us and the rest of our peers is the fact that we are in a same sex relationship. The inclusion of the Uniting American Families Act will protect our family from deportation and also our general well-being. When we saw that Senator Rubio and others specifically spoke against our family we felt that not all families were included in immigration reform. It was extremely outrageous to us to see the Uniting American Families Act fail in the Judiciary Committee last week. We hope that Senator Rubio will speak on behalf of the entire state of Florida, people like me, and also the 67% of Florida voters who support the inclusion of same sex couples in immigration reform.

Story 3: I'm an immigrant rights activist and I have been one for the past five years. I absolutely say yes to citizenship for the eleven million undocumented immigrants living in this country. I feel it's imperative that the government finally takes care of this issue after so many years. For example in my case, I have been living here for twenty-three years, but have been undocumented from the age of two. Right now I want to legalize my status so I can become an architect, finally realize my dream of becoming a citizen, and do my best in giving back to this

country—the only country that I really know.

Story 4: I came here from the Bahamas a year and a half ago searching for a better life and to further my education and athletic career. I graduated senior high school at the age of sixteen, and I am now eighteen. Because of my immigration status I was unable to continue and further my education. I've had scholarships to the top schools but was unable to obtain them because of my immigration status, which put part of my life on hold. I am saying yes to citizenship so I can be a voice not only for myself, but also for the students that stand in my shoes.

Story 5: I'm twenty-five years old and from West Palm Beach, Florida. I've lived here my whole life, and I'm the second oldest of seven children. All me and my brothers and sisters are U.S. citizens. We were all born here in the United States. My dad is Guatemalan—he is an immigrant. And my mom is Salvadoran—she is also an immigrant. They immigrated to the United States about twenty-five years ago. About seven years ago my mom and my dad were both deported at the same time, on the same day. I was a senior in high school. I remember the day clearly. I said goodbye to both my mom and my dad like a normal day. I knew they were going to immigration court but I never thought that I would never see them again. That was the last day I saw them. My dad owned his own company in which he paid taxes. We had everything that we wanted growing up because my dad worked hard and was able to own his own business. When my mom and dad were deported we lost the house that he bought. With the house he lost the business, and with the business we pretty much lost everything. It was up to me and my older sister to pretty much provide everything for my younger brothers and sisters. From that point on, I was no longer a normal high school student. I became a father of six, pretty much. My life changed completely. I had high hopes of one day playing collegiate soccer and hopefully maybe even one day playing professional soccer, but those dreams were shattered when my parents were deported. There was a moment when some of my brothers and sisters were actually homeless due to the fact that we lost the company, we lost my parents, and we lost the house. So we did live on the streets. We lived at hotels sometimes. It completely destroyed my family. Two years ago my mom was actually killed due to the violence that people flee the country for. The first time I saw my mom since the day that she was deported from this country in five years was in her coffin for her funeral. That was the first time I ever saw my mom. I never got the chance to hug my mom or kiss my mom or say "hi" to my mom ever again. She was never a criminal. She never even got a speeding ticket. Now I live here with my brothers and sisters, and we get by however we can. Obviously things are rough. Things are hard, but we're getting through it. It saddens me every day to know that the fact that my parents were deported broke a happy family, a truly happy family that's no longer together and will no longer ever be happy. If I had one goal, one mission in my life, it's to prevent other children, other kids, other families from going through what I went through.

Story 6: I live in Auburndale, Florida. I was undocumented. I want to say yes to citizenship because it's a very important thing for immigration reform to happen. We've been promised immigration reform for years since Obama's first term in office and he did not go through with that promise, though he did pass the action for childhood arrivals a

couple months before his reelection. I was undocumented for many years until my wife is able to fix my status but my legalization does not mean that I can stop fighting for other undocumented people. I have family and friends who are still in the shadows, who are willing to come out, and who I want to come out to better themselves.

Story 7: I'm saying yes to Congress supporting a path to citizenship. Many of us have stories. My story is this: my mom brought me here when I was six months old and it's not her fault, it's nobody's fault. By the age of 13 I started helping them in the fields and I learned and went to school and everything. After school I would go straight to the fields to help out my mom because she needed help. I want to see a path to citizenship because I want to see everybody have opportunities in life.

Story 8: My family actually immigrated 200 years ago. My great great grandfather was a stowaway from Germany and a German Jew. I really love it here in Florida. I really see how the immigrant community has enriched our community. I worry that increasingly we are being hostile to immigrants because they look a little different from the immigrants that have come here from the past instead of realizing how much they enrich the place. I think we need to continue to be a country that welcomes people just like it has with my great great grandfather.

Story 9: I'm from Argentina, and I've been here for 30 years. I came to this country looking for a better future. I have two American children and the greatest fear I have is being separated from them. I have been threatened with separation from my children and all that I ask the congressmen and senators is to pass immigration reform with a path to citizenship in order to give a better future for my children and to fulfill my dreams in this country.

Story 10: I think it's important what we're doing today because the people are of value, they are an asset to our community and we need them. None of us would be here if it wasn't for the immigrants. We all come from that. It's important that they're allowed to be here so they can add to our economy. And they're not taking jobs. They're doing the jobs that no one wants to do. I'm an American, born and raised, and I'm in total support of it. I think the government needs to look at our immigration system and make it user-friendly to become a citizen because right now it's not user-friendly. It's too expensive and too much paperwork and too much red tape. Let's get down to the brass tacks and do it right. And do it in a quick manner. We can do it and the government knows how to do it. Let's just do it.

Story 11: I'm here because I have a lot of friends that I go to school with who can't go to school because of tuition hikes in our state. I'm in this club Students Working for Equal Rights, and our president right now is in Georgia because her boyfriend got arrested for driving without a license. Of course, if you're not documented you can't get a license, and if you're undocumented and get arrested, you'll constantly live in fear of being deported. I've just seen this problem escalate, and I'm here to make sure I help that in any way that I can. I want to see immigration get reformed because there are a lot of people that play by the rules and work really

hard. They want to raise their kids or do anything any other decent person wants to do, but they're denied the basic opportunities most Americans take for granted.

Story 12: I say yes to a path to citizenship because it would mean brightness where

darkness has been for many people for a long time. Undocumented immigrants face many injustices and abuses. They fear getting stopped by a police officer and standing up for themselves. I'm here because I'm not di-

rectly affected, but my friends and family are and I want to stand up for my people. I want to stand up with all the organizations that are fighting for justice.